Season's Greetings from LOTTO 649

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TORONTO • TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2008 metronews.ca

Sports pg 21

CanCon for NFL's Atlanta Falcons

Slight rise in RIDE charges this season

POLICE The number of drivers charged with drinking offences in the holiday RIDE program in Toronto is up slightly this year over last.

Toronto police had pulled over 64,798 vehicles as of yesterday, which is slightly lower than the 70,635 pulled over by this date last year, but 12 drivers, compared to 10 last year, have been charged with impaired driving.

There have also been 232 suspensions issued, compared with 208 by the same time last year.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Hanukkah **Celebrating the miracle of oil**

CANDICE WARD/FOR METRO CANADA

Prime Minister Stephen Harper, home in Calgary for the holidays, lights a menorah at city hall yesterday in a celebration of Hanukkah. Hanukkah, the eight-day Jewish festival of lights, began Sunday night.

Fortunes turn for some

It was shortly after the credit crunch hit that Toronto clairvoyant Deborah Levin started getting calls from the most unlikely places.

"All of a sudden, I'm hearing from business professionals calling on their private office lines or on their cellphones in the hall whispering," says Levin, who has been a professional psychic consultant for more than 15 years. "These are people who in the past were usually skeptical and not really comfortable consulting a psychic."

"The majority of my new clients are people at their wits' end." Deborah Levin

Levin has had double the number of new inquiries since the beginning of the economic downturn this year, she says. Her experience isn't unique.

Psychics, palm readers and astrologers across the city are reporting a "huge" increase in business now that people's job security and retirement savings are quickly disappearing.

"The majority of my new clients are people at their wits' end who are looking for some direction or another way of viewing their life," says Levin, 41, adding that most inquiries used to be about relationships.

"Now, it's all about career and finances," she says. "A lot of people will come and ask about their jobs or say, 'We've just lost our nest egg. What do we do?'"

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Red chamber gets a blue makeover

Prime Minister Stephen Harper has tapped the ranks of card-carrying Conservatives and others sympathetic to his agenda to fill 18 Senate vacancies, a move critics blasted as an abuse of power at a time when opposition parties are threatening to topple the minority government.

Pamela Wallin

Harper's patronage appointments include broadcasters Mike Duffy and Pamela Wallin, a former separatist politician in Quebec, several defeated Conservative candidates and other prominent Conservatives, including the party's chief fundraiser.

The raft of appointments mark a change of heart for Harper, who has derided the Senate and tried to bring in reforms that would cap Senate terms to eight years, as well as start down the path to an elected Senate. But facing possible defeat in just a few weeks, Harper instead moved fast to fill the existing vacancies with Conservative appointees.

David Christopherson, the New Democrats' democratic reform critic, slammed Harper's appointments as "hypocritical and undemocratic."

"The problem is that it's filled with so many identifiable Conservative hacks," he said.

Mike Duffy

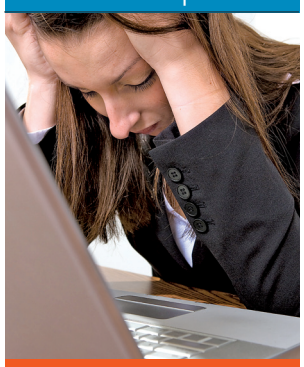
Christopherson said Harper should have waited until after Parliament resumes on Jan. 26 and it becomes clear whether the Conservative minority government will survive threats by the opposition to defeat it. He called on Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean, who must ratify Harper's picks, to hold off until after that date.

A senior aide to Harper yesterday rebuffed criticisms that the picks were partisan, saying people on the list "have distinguished themselves in their chosen profession."

Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff did not speak publicly yesterday. However, in a statement, he said, "in appointing 18 senators while Parliament is prorogued, Stephen Harper has shown once again that he cannot be trusted."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Seasonal Depression



Economic woes impact holidays

Second in a two-part series, pg 10

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No price for happiness

Sports pg 20

Pogge rarely tested in win

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Thieves make off with products in sex-store robbery

Three thieves apparently lusting after merchandise at an Oakville sex shop took some of the products by force late Saturday night. The men entered the Love Shop on Speers Road just before midnight. One approached the lone male employee and forced him to the ground as the trio emptied cash from the register and grabbed products before fleeing. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Local

Heinz gives infant formula to food bank

H.J. Heinz Company of Canada is lending its support to the Daily Bread Food Bank this holiday season with a contribution of $100,000 worth of Heinz Nurture Infant Formula. Daily Bread will receive enough cans of Heinz Nurture Infant Formula Concentrate for 500,000 feedings. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Superior Court tosses officers' $4.5M lawsuit

'FINK FUND' An Ontario Superior Court justice has dismissed a $4.5-million lawsuit filed by three Toronto police officers relating to their arrest in 2000 as part of what became known as the fink fund scandal.

Rick Franklin, Wayne Frye and Gordon Ramsay launched their action in 2003, two years after charges of breach of trust, fraud, forgery and uttering were withdrawn. The charges related to the alleged skimming of informant money.

Their lawsuit said they were the victims of a negligent police investigation and malicious prosecution.

Named in the suit were the Toronto Police Services Board, police internal affairs investigators and prosecutors with the Ontario attorney general's office. Lawyers for Franklin, Frye and Ramsay claimed the investigators acted "outside of the scope of their authority" and prosecutors "failed to take any reasonable steps" to ensure the accuracy of their information.

But Justice Arthur Gans found the police did have the requisite reasonable and probable grounds to charge the plaintiffs "notwithstanding the holes that counsel believed existed at the time of arrest."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Language barrier keeping many ill immigrants from seeking help: MD

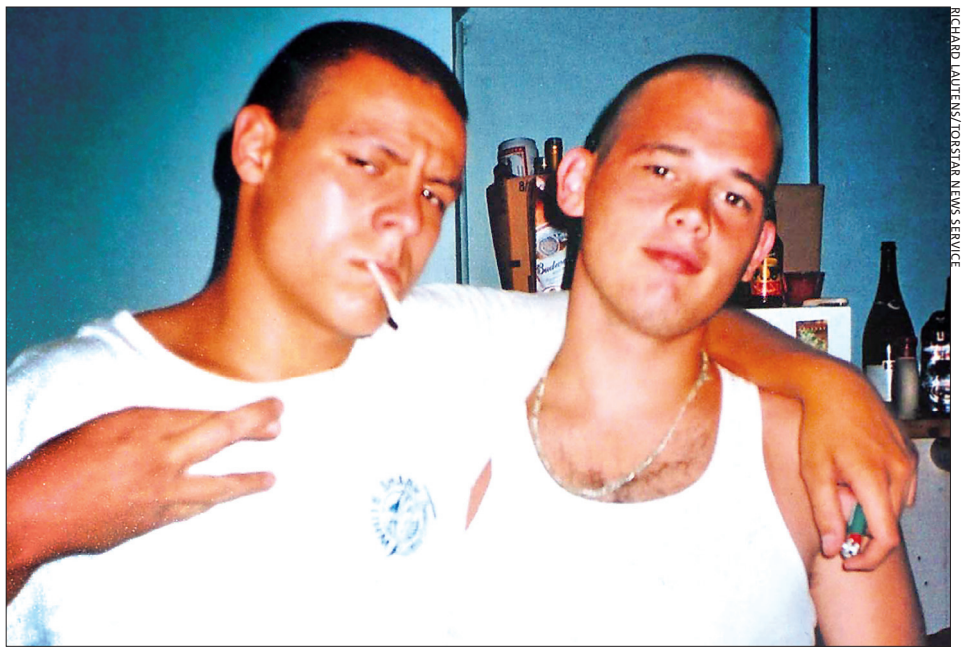
STUDY A significant number of immigrants, including many newcomers to Toronto, say they are ill because they can't speak English well enough to tell anyone, a doctor who advocates for immigrant health reveals in the current Canadian Journal of Public Health.

"We found clear linkages" between health and language, says Dr. Kevin Pottie, a professor at the University of Ottawa. "People are hiding it or not documenting the poor outcomes. There is a certain shame in the medical profession that we don't do a better job."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

STRUCK A woman in her 50s is in hospital with serious but non-life-threatening head injuries after being hit by a downtown streetcar. Police and EMS crews arrived at Spadina Avenue and Sullivan Street around 5:30 p.m. to find the woman bleeding from head injuries. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Double-murder victims Justin Hodge, 20, left, and Damien Muirhead, 22, are shown in this photo. The friends were thought to have been shot in a robbery attempt.

Two found guilty in 2005 double slaying

A Toronto jury has found two young men guilty of two counts each of first-degree murder in the Jan. 21, 2005, killing of long-time friends Justin Hodge and Damian Muirhead during a home invasion in a King West Village co-op.

The Crown alleged Bryan Tomlinson, 27, was the only shooter. But after four months of evidence and deliberating for five days, the jury convicted both Tomlinson and Roberto Ceballo, 21, on Sunday.

They received automatic life sentences with no eligibility for parole for 25 years.

During the trial, prosecutors said Ceballo and his cousin, Keean Jones, hatched a plan to rob Hodge of drugs and money. Jones and Hodge both lived in the Niagara Neighbourhood Co-operative. Jones became the Crown's key witness.

Hodge, 20, sold pot "out of his home exclusively to people who knew him," Crown attorney Beverley Richards said yesterday.

On the night of the shootings, Muirhead, 22, dropped in at Hodge's apartment around 9:30 p.m. It was "happenstance" they were there when two masked men burst in, Richards said.

The masked men opened fire, shooting Hodge once through the heart and Muirhead in the back. Both Ceballo and Tomlinson denied they were the masked men.

Richards said cellphone records were a key element in the prosecution's case.

A knife the Crown said Ceballo had carried was found in a nearby laneway along with bandanas with his DNA. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Defence case

- The defence alleged the actual perpetrator is the brother of Bryan Tomlinson, who was convicted yesterday.

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Tomorrow's Metro

Automotive

Columnist Michael Goetz gives the lowdown on the top 10 cars of the year that people can actually afford to drive.

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What's online today.

Video Afghan army gets training from Canadians on Styrofoam battlefields at **metronews.ca/canada**

Video Canadians could have the first coast-to-coast white Christmas since 1971 at **metronews.ca/canada**

Comment Allan Small on whether it's time to invest in gold at **metronews.ca/investing**

Lotteries

Ontario Pick 3: 0 1 5; **Ontario Pick 4** : 5 9 7 3
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Daily Keno: 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 18, 21, 27, 32, 35, 39, 43, 48, 52, 55, 56, 58, 60, 64 and 69
These results are not official.

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Toronto paralegal feared missing in China
A Toronto woman who has been travelling in China is feared missing, her family says. Ani Ashekian's relatives in Windsor, Ont., say they have had no contact with the 30-year-old paralegal in almost six weeks. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Hope, oven fresh

St. John's bakers cut slice of better life

At a time when everyone is counting pennies and tightening their belts, it may seem extravagant to spend $14 on organic fruitcake.

Yet the brick-size loaves are flying off the shelves of St. John's Bakery, a social enterprise in south Riverdale specializing in artisanal French breads and sweets.

Owned and run by the St. John's the Compassionate Mission, the tiny bakery has developed a devoted clientele over the years, one so far undeterred by the nascent recession, says manager Hilda Tzavaras.

"This place gave me something to believe in besides crack."
Gordon Brown

That's because each dollar pays for more than baked goods — it helps support the bakery's outreach program, which trains people coping with addictions, disabilities and other hardships to work the ovens or the store.

For Gordon Brown, one of St. John's lead bread bakers, the bakery was "a platform to rise above" the crack and cocaine addictions that plagued him for 15 years, he said.

A formally trained chef, Brown, 53, was bouncing from rehab to transitional housing when he heard about the bakery nearly five years ago.

"This place gave me something to believe in besides crack," said Brown, who now moonlights as a motivational speaker and soon-to-be-teacher of kids' cooking classes at the Beaches Recreation Centre.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MICHAEL STUPARYK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Jacqueline Urrutia carries a tray of baked products at St. John's Bakery on Broadview Avenue. The bakery's sales help support an outreach program that trains people coping with addictions, disabilities and other hardships to work the ovens or the store.

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Canada Post sorts out delays in Mississauga

Disgruntled Mississauga residents who experienced mail delays due to the postal strike should now have full service restored, according to Canada Post.

Company spokesperson John Caines said the disruption at sorting plants caused delays in the mail for some Mississauga homes throughout last week.

However, full service has been in effect since Thursday, he said. Deliveries to reduce the Christmas backlog took place on the weekend.

Strikers "were delaying access to the postal facilities," he said. "We couldn't get mail in or out but that has all been taken care of with (granting of) the injunction."

A Toronto court agreed last week to a provincewide ban on picketing at the gates of postal facilities.

Support workers walked out in mid-November to protest sick-leave concessions being forced on them in contract negotiations.

"(Labour peace) depends on what happens at the ratification vote. My guess is it will be a close in-favour vote of about 55 per cent."
Les Wasiuk

Les Wasiuk, a representative for the Toronto local for the Union of Postal Communications employees, accused the company of using "economic terrorism" to take away benefits rightfully earned by employees across Canada.

"They want to take away all our accumulated sick benefits as of January 2010," he said.

Wasiuk said labour peace could come as 2,400 members voted on a contract last night. "It all depends on what happens at the ratification vote," he said. "My guess is it will be a close in-favour vote of about 55 per cent." **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

News in brief

FLOODING There was no Christmas miracle for violators hoping to avoid fines after a flood in the cash-payment room at Old City Hall courts Saturday left all files intact. The room began to flood around 3 a.m. Sunday when a pipe burst. A spokesperson at Old City Hall said there was not much damage to the room designated for fine payments, adding none of the court documents housed there were damaged.

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247 Bank St.
2184 Thurston Dr.
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Carlingwood Shopping Centre
Rideau Centre
St. Laurent Centre
OWEN SOUND
Heritage Place Shoppers Drug Mart Plaza
PARRY SOUND
Parry Sound Mall
PEMBROKE
1018 Pembroke St. East
PETAWAWA
3471B Petawawa Blvd.
PETERBOROUGH
746 Lansdowne St. West
Lansdowne Place
PICKERING
570 Kingston Rd. Pickering Town Centre
RICHMOND HILL
Elgin Mills Crossing
Hillcrest Mall
Richmond Heights Plaza
Time Square Shopping Centre
SARNIA
531 Murphy Rd.
Lambton Mall
SAULT STE. MARIE
270 Bruce St.
The Station Mall
SCARBOROUGH
259 Morningside Ave.
Bridlewood Mall (kiosk)
Cedarbrae Mall (kiosk)
Eglinton Square
Kennedy Commons
Malvern Town Centre
Scarborough Town Centre
SIMCOE
Simcoe Town Centre
SMITHS FALLS
16 Beckwith St. South
ST. CATHARINES
420 Vansickle Rd.
Fairview Mall
Pen Centre
ST. THOMAS
1063 Talbot St.
STITTSVILLE
1250 Main St.
STRATFORD
400 Huron St.
Festival Marketplace
SUDBURY
Brady Square
New Sudbury Centre
Southridge Mall
THORNHILL
Promenade Mall
TILLSONBURG
Tillsonburg Town Centre
TORONTO
85 Hanna Ave.
320 Queen St. West
209 Danforth Ave.
2171 Queen St. East
2256 Bloor St. West
2323 Yonge St.
Bayview Village
Brookfield Place
Chinatown Centre
College Park
Commerce Court
Cumberland Terrace
Dufferin Mall
East York Town Centre
Eaton Centre
Eaton Centre II
Exchange Tower
Gerrard Square
Scotia Plaza
Toronto Life Square
Yorkdale (kiosk)
TRENTON
260 Dundas St. East
UXBRIDGE
307 Toronto St. South
VAUGHAN
Vaughan Mills
WATERLOO
Conestoga Mall
WELLAND
589 South Pelham St.
Seaway Mall
WHITBY
Whitby Mall
SmartCentres Whitby
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8 local

Woman burned A woman was hospitalized with second- and third-degree burns and two cats were killed after a fire broke out in a highrise on Huntley Street, near Bloor and Jarvis streets, around 7:40 a.m. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

AARON HARRIS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Oliver Martin's mother, Susan Martin, is reflected in a mirror as she rearranges photographs of her son at her home in Toronto yesterday. Oliver Martin was fatally shot in a parked SUV downtown.

No holiday from grief

Season solemn for families of 2 slain men

The Rosedale dining room is monumental.

"We'll eat on the floor," Karen Ellis says. She laughs then starts to cry. "I'm sorry," she says. "It's hard."

A room that should be bursting with Christmas now holds a makeshift shrine to her dead son.

Murdered senselessly with his best friend Oliver Martin six months ago, Dylan Ellis is memorialized atop every inch of a wooden dining room table, carpet, hearth and suede chairs.

It was before midnight on June 13 when the two 25-year-old men were shot dead in an SUV parked in front of a friend's Richmond Street West condominium. The gunman has not been found.

Dylan's guitar, a CD crafted in his honour and necklaces adorn the tabletop.

"We think of it as Dylan and Oliver's room now," Ellis says.

The men's friends show up almost every Friday for game night, a tradition.

"It's so healing to have them here," Ellis says.

Just a few streets down from the Ellises, there is a single star in the window of the red brick row house where Oliver's parents live.

It is the only Christmas decoration Susan Martin and Alan Dudek allow since their son was gunned down.

"I put it there for Oliver.

"The world feels like a cold, deep, dark place."
Susan Martin, Oliver Martin's mother

Maybe he can see the star," Martin says. She runs her right hand over her left wrist, where a tattoo reads "O'Boy," Oliver's nickname.

His wife is the last person who would tattoo herself, Dudek says.

There are pictures of Oliver all over their home.

"The world feels like a cold, deep, dark place. I can barely put one foot in front of the other," Martin says.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Strojnik gets life sentence for brutally killing wife of 31 years

COURT Naked and bleeding from head wounds, Zofia Strojnik desperately tried to escape her hammer-swinging husband.

But she was too weak, and in too much pain. She made it out of their Mississauga townhouse but was quickly dragged back in.

Yesterday, Julian Strojnik, 57, was given a sentence of life in prison for inflicting a painful death on Zofia, 53, his wife of 31 years.

The former bricklayer pleaded guilty to second-degree murder for the attack on Oct. 16, 2006.

Strojnik will not be eligible for parole for at least 10 years.

A medical examiner found 23 separate blunt-force injuries to her scalp.

Strojnik believed his wife was cheating on him.

Strojnik had threatened to kill his wife if she left him, as she had threatened to do.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

RESCUE A woman was rescued yesterday after spending three days buried under snow in a field near the airport in Hamilton. Police called it a miracle that the woman, who went missing Friday after going for a walk, was able to survive the "horrific" weather conditions.

LEAK A gas leak closed part of Kingston Road yesterday morning and forced the evacuation of several apartments in Scarborough. A sidewalk plow is suspected to have clipped the gas line overnight.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Inquiry finds no technical problem with Snowbirds jet that crashed

A military board of inquiry has finished the first phase of an investigation into the crash of a Snowbirds Tutor jet that killed a pilot and a military photographer Oct. 9 near Moose Jaw, Sask. An initial report says no pre-existing technical problem was found with the aircraft. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Weathering bad drivers

OPP Commissioner Julian Fantino, left, wants the power to charge motorists who don't slow down when weather conditions demand caution on the roads, but the idea appeared to get the cold shoulder yesterday from the Ontario government. At least 40 per cent of crashes are caused by people driving too fast in poor conditions and not paying attention, Fantino said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Financial woes compound stress

Holidays and sagging economy a bad mix

KRISTEN THOMPSON
Metro Canada

METRO FEATURE
Seasonal **Depression**

With many Canadian workers dealing with layoffs or the worry of being let go in the new year, the 2008 holiday season is turning out to be particularly stressful, which can lead to depression.

Kat Ivancic, 20, a customer service representative at a national bank in Vancouver, said everyone in her office is worried about losing their jobs in 2009, given the state of the economy.

She said while no one has been let go yet, the company is encouraging voluntary early retirement.

"I've seen some of my older co-workers cry over it," Ivancic said yesterday.

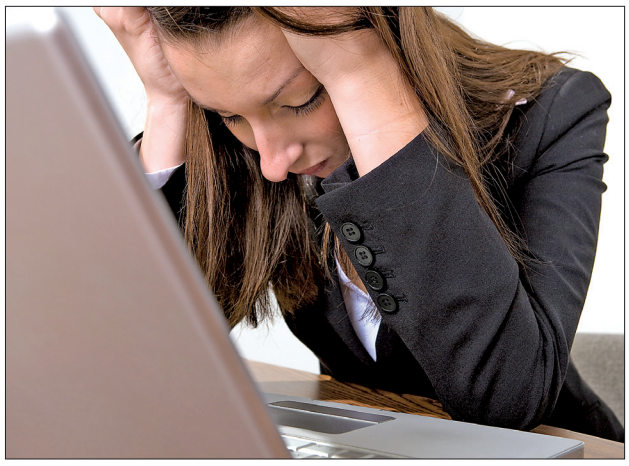
"(And customers) are coming in stressed out with financial crises, so customer service has got a lot harder … I don't want to deal with (this) stuff, especially at Christmas."

Besides concerns over job stability, Canadians are also dealing with added workloads, low morale because of the cancellation of Christmas parties and bonuses, and the stress of having to tell family they've been let go. To people who are susceptible to depression, these can all worsen their condition.

"Things that are out of our control affect our mental health," said Dr. Joti Samra, a registered clinical psychologist at Simon Fraser University. "(The holidays) are one of the worst times of the year to be worried about finances."

Samra said the best way to cope with the financial stress is to be adaptable and keep your family in the loop.

"Take a good hard look at spending (as a family)," she said. "Identify what things are in your control and what things are not. It's still a family issue, and one person alone doesn't need to bear that responsibility."



As the world economy tanks, the 2008 holiday season has Canadian workers stressed about job security, which can greatly affect people who are susceptible to depression.

Crisis centre reports sharp rise in calls

CHELSEA MIYA
for Metro Canada

The crisis help line at the Distress Centres of Toronto, one of the busiest in the country at roughly 120,000 callers a year, has seen a 22 per cent increase in calls about financial difficulties.

It's not bad weather blues but times of transition that hit people the hardest, said executive director Karen Letofsky.

And what worse time of transition than a recession?

"We've seen more and more people calling about suicide," said Letofsky. "Depression, heightened anxiety, fear of failure, fear of the future, wishing they could escape everything that's happening around them."

Letofsky said the worst fallout is yet to come, as the reality of lost jobs and homes sinks in.

Finding help

- Canadian Association for Suicide Prevention, www.casp-acps.ca
- 24-hour crisis hotlines:
- Toronto — Distress Centres of Toronto, 416-408-4357
- Countrywide — Covenant House, 1-800-999-9999.

News in brief

ECONOMY As Finance Minister Jim Flaherty presents Canadians with a new economic advisory council, it seems to be a foregone conclusion that massive budget deficits loom in the near future. Prime Minister Stephen Harper said last week that the budget on Jan. 27 will include $15 billion to $25 billion of infrastructure spending, tax cuts and other stimulus.

SOLAR SYSTEM University of Calgary geologist Alan Hildebrand is studying more than 100 well-preserved meteorites collected after a heavenly fireball flashed across the Prairie sky last month, which could provide a glimpse into the very beginnings of our solar system.

LOAN Air Canada said yesterday it has signed a deal for a five-year loan for $78 million US with Calyon New York Branch and Norddeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale. THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Ordinary' trip for astronaut

Julie Payette doesn't believe her family will get too excited when she blasts off to visit the International Space Station next May for the first time in a decade.

"My husband Billie Flynn is an experimental test pilot mainly for military aircraft … so he does a job more risky than mine," the Canadian astronaut said in an interview yesterday.

Payette called it "very ordinary" for her two boys, aged five and 15, to have a mom who flies on a space shuttle and a dad who flies "very fast" jet aircraft.

Payette added her sons find it more interesting to talk to rock stars, hockey or basketball players.

The 45-year-old astronaut, who makes her trip in mid-May on board space shuttle Endeavour, will act as flight engineer during the 16-day extended mission.

Payette's role will be to handle all robotics, including the Canadarms on the shuttle and the space station.

The last time Payette made a space trip was in 1999 when she became the first Canadian to visit the orbiting space laboratory. THE CANADIAN PRESS

CANADIAN PRESS FILE PHOTO

Canadian astronaut Julie Payette is preparing to visit the International Space Station in May. This will be her second space trip.

Nova Scotia mourns 2 soldiers

FUNERALS Mourners filled two churches in Nova Scotia yesterday to pay their respects to soldiers who were killed by a roadside bomb earlier this month in Afghanistan.

Hundreds attended the services for Cpl. Thomas Hamilton in Upper Musquodoboit and Pte. John Curwin in Lower Sackville.

Brig.-Gen. David Neasmith, commander of Canadian Land Forces, Atlantic Area, said two funerals in one day was difficult.

"It's been a tough day," he said. "The whole community — not just the Royal Canadian Regiment — but all the reserve units, too, lean forward to support the families in any possible way they can." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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HWY ON ONE TANK OF GAS
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CITY: 9.2 L/100km /31 MPG

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University of Chicago to allow co-ed dorm rooms

The University of Chicago is joining a trend of allowing male and female students to live not just on the same dorm floor, but in the same dorm room. The university says it was a student-led initiative that isn't aimed at romantic couples. However, the school says couples won't be banned from asking to be roommates. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Hairdressers want to style Obama

Hairdressers in the Washington, D.C. area are hoping they can get a chance to style Michelle Obama's hair. Salon owner Barry Fletcher sent Obama a 17-minute DVD about himself. Hairdresser Keith Harley uploaded his resume to president-elect Barack Obama's website. And salon owner Nicole Cober-Blake plans to get her name in by sending a welcome basket with bath gels, hair products and a robe. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Russia seeks 70 new missiles

The Russian military will commission 70 strategic nuclear missiles over the next three years, a senior government official told Russian news agencies yesterday.

The statement by Vladislav Putilin, a deputy head of the military-industrial commission in charge of weapons industries, indicates the government's intention to significantly increase the tempo of rearming Russia's Strategic Missile Forces.

Longer presidential term approved

- Russia's upper house of parliament voted unanimously yesterday to extend the country's presidential term to six years. Past presidents had been restricted to four years.

Since the late 1990s, Russia has commissioned more than 50 new Topol-M intercontinental ballistic missiles at a pace of several missiles a year.

Soviet-built nuclear missiles continue to account for the bulk of Russia's strategic nuclear forces, and the military has repeatedly extended their designated lifetime to maintain that deterrent.

Putilin, who spoke after a government session chaired by Prime Minister Vladimir Putin that discussed the weapons purchases, said the cabinet has decided to spend about four trillion rubles, or about $141 billion US, on new weapons over the next three years, Interfax and RIA Novosti news agencies reported.

Putilin said that in addition to 70 strategic missiles, the military will also get 30 short-range Iskander missiles, 48 combat jets, 60 military helicopters, more than 300 tanks and 14 navy vessels in the next three years.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Queen's old butler gets 6 years in child sex case

JUSTICE A former butler to the Queen has been sentenced to at least six years in prison for multiple child sex offences.

Fifty-five-year-old Paul Kidd pleaded guilty in October to nine counts of indecent assault and six counts of sexual activity with a child.

He also pleaded guilty to causing or inciting a child to engage in sexual activity, 11 charges of making indecent images of a child and two counts of possessing indecent images of children.

At a hearing yesterday at Manchester Crown Court in northern England, Judge Mushtaq Khokar said Kidd still poses a risk to young people.

One of Kidd's victims contacted police after reading a newspaper interview with the ex-butler on last year's 10th anniversary of the death of Diana, the Princess of Wales.

The victim, now in his 40s, said he had been indecently assaulted by Kidd at the butler's home in the early 1980s.

After leaving royal employment, Kidd charged as much as $7,200 as an after-dinner speaker, and also worked on cruise ships talking of his experiences in the Queen's household.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Background

- Kidd was a butler to the Queen from 1977 to 1979, then senior footman to the late Queen Mother Elizabeth until 1984.

News in brief

VATICAN Pope Benedict says popular analysis tends to consider World Youth Day celebrations a church version of modern youth culture and place him on the level of a rock star. But he says the ability of young Catholics to create a sense of community during the meetings shows they are more than just parties. "In this way also the Pope is not the star around which everything revolves," he said.

COURT Pelham police Chief Edward Fleury in Massachusetts has pleaded not guilty in the death of an eight-year-old boy who accidentally shot himself with an Uzi at a gun show. Fleury has been charged with involuntary manslaughter. He owns COPS Firearms & Training, which promoted the October show where Christopher Bizilj accidentally shot himself in the head.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Spain **Lottery winners rejoice**

MANU FERNANDEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Women celebrate outside a lottery office in Barcelona yesterday after winning a portion of the main prize in Spain's Christmas lottery, El Gordo. The lottery, one of the world's richest, went to holders of tickets bearing the number 32365. The winning number can be on as many as 1,950 tickets, each of which wins 300,000 euro (about $510,000 Cdn).

Obama to reveal chats with Blagojevich over Senate seat

CORRUPTION Barack Obama plans to reveal his staff's conversations with the Illinois governor accused of trying to sell off the president-elect's vacant Senate seat.

Obama spokeswoman Stephanie Cutter says the president-elect's transition staff has compiled a report on contacts with Gov. Rod Blagojevich.

Obama is on vacation in Hawaii, but his office says it will go ahead with the release of the report today.

Obama has said his internal review will show that his staff had no "inappropriate" discussions with the governor or his staff about the seat.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Missiles kill at least eight in northwestern Pakistan
Suspected U.S. missile strikes killed at least eight people yesterday in volatile northwest Pakistan, officials and witnesses said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shoe-tosser not sorry for actions: Brother

A family member says the Iraqi journalist who threw his shoes at U.S. President George W. Bush was forced to write a letter of apology after being tortured in jail.

The brother of journalist Muntadhar al-Zeidi made the claim yesterday, adding that al-Zeidi is not only not sorry but would do it again if he had the chance.

Throwing one's shoes at someone is an act of contempt in Iraqi culture.

Al-Zeidi threw his shoes at Bush's head during a Dec. 14 news conference attended by the U.S. leader and Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki.

Film of the incident has been repeatedly broadcast worldwide, making al-Zeidi a symbol of opposition to the U.S.-led invasion and occupation of Iraq.

Thousands of Iraqis have rallied to demand his release and sympathetic "shoe-throwing" rallies have been held in other countries.

The prime minister's office said last week that al-Zeidi had written a letter of apology and asked al-Maliki to recommend a pardon.

Al-Maliki claimed that al-Zeidi wrote that a known terrorist had induced him to throw the shoes. The alleged instigator was not named.

But the journalist's brother, Uday al-Zeidi, told The Associated Press that the letter was written against the journalist's will. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Trial

- Muntadhar al-Zeidi's trial on charges of assaulting a foreign leader is scheduled to begin Dec. 31, said a spokesman for the Iraqi Higher Judicial Court. A conviction would carry a sentence of up to two years in prison.

China **Santas celebrate underwater**

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/COLOR CHINA

Santa Clauses perform under water with musical instruments yesterday in a turtle aquarium at an ocean park in Fuzhou, in China's Fujian province. Chinese characters in the background spell out the message Merry Christmas.

Mumbai hotels reopen their doors

INDIA The blood has been mopped up, the grenade-scarred marble replaced, the bullet holes covered over.

But the reopening Sunday of parts of the iconic Taj Mahal hotel — less than a month after militants stormed the building, spraying staff and guests with gunfire and grenades — comes with more than just a new plaster and paint job.

There are new security measures and officials promise a new type of luxury hotel: An "invisible fortress" that can protect guests as well as pamper them in the aftermath of the Nov. 26 attacks.

The Trident portion of the Oberoi hotel complex also reopened on Sunday, though the main areas of both luxury hotels are expected to stay closed for months.

With the holidays approaching, the two landmarks rushed to woo guests back.

Police manned barricades outside the Taj while armed, undercover guards kept watch inside.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

MIDDLE EAST The Palestinian private sector won't prosper as long as trade in the West Bank is hampered by Israeli checkpoints and cumbersome cargo crossings, the World Bank said in a report released yesterday.

GERMANY A self-described "lonely" man jumped into the enclosure of the Berlin's zoo's famed polar bear Knut yesterday morning. Zoo workers kept the bear away from the intruder by distracting him with a leg of beef.

THAILAND Alleged arms smuggler Viktor Bout took the stand yesterday for the first time to fight his extradition to the United States and deny charges that he conspired to arm Colombian rebels.

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Comment & Views

Comment

'08 as ugly as they come

NationalReport

Lawrence Martin

As years go, they don't get much uglier than 2008. The economy started on a long and likely brutal plunge. The never-ending war in Afghanistan showed no signs of closure. We had yet another election which was dispiriting in almost every sense.

In this 21st century version of open democracy, we had the Governor General make a critical call on our political future without a word of explanation for her decision. We had a Conservative government, which normally stands broad-shouldered against deficits, usher in a period of deficits.

We had a government which stands for high ethics and transparency give us the Cadman affair, NAFTAgate, Maxime Bernier and Boobgate, the in and out affair, the shutting down of Parliament and election campaign ads featuring defecating birds.

Despite the Conservatives' repeated attempts at self-destruction, we had an opposition party so feeble that it actually lost ground against them. The Liberal leader hit new lows on the hapless meter, showing himself even incapable of producing a nationally televised video of himself that was in focus.

It was supposed to be the year in which we addressed the pressing matter of global warming. By year's end, green was pretty much forgotten and we'd moved on to other bruise-like colours.

We had a celebrated war general, Rick Hillier, who decided, just at the moment he was perhaps most needed, to call it a day. This not-so-old general faded away for no good reason and enthusiasm for our men and women in arms faded as well.

The year featured a prime minister more interested in playing political poker than in showing inspirational leadership.

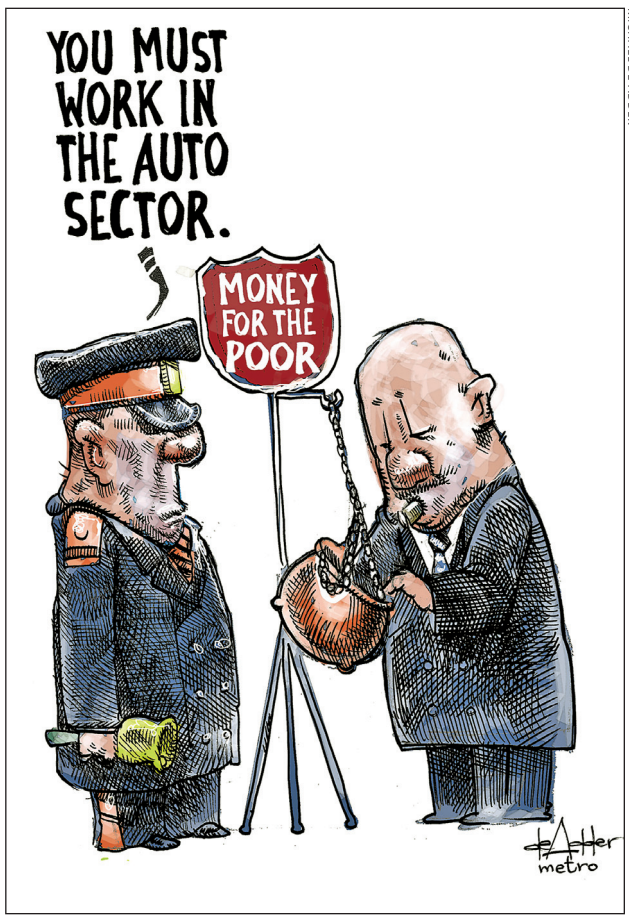
The year featured a prime minister more interested in playing political poker than in showing inspirational leadership on the major issues of our times. Stephen Harper closed down Parliament twice, once claiming it was dysfunctional when in fact he had gotten his way in the Commons almost every time. A second bolting of the doors came when Parliament threatened to dysfunction him, forcing the PM to rush off to Rideau Hall to beg for salvation.

The fiasco that was the government's economic statement typified our year in the dumps. Here we were, on the edge of a global economic meltdown, and the finance minister could do nothing better than play cheap politics with it, bringing forward a policy which threatened to starve opposing parties of financing. That in turn somehow led to a spectacularly unedifying east-vs-west debate about separatists at the gates.

It was a suitably depressing capper to a relentlessly depressing political year.

In the nation's capital the one good thing about '08 is that '09 can hardly get worse.

Lawrence Martin is a Globe and Mail correspondent and author who writes about national affairs from Ottawa.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Views

'Powerful' message from Zambia

Tanya Kim

I returned from my first trip to Zambia recently. Taking time from my hosting duties with CTV's eTalk, I had the honour and privilege of working with CARE Canada. This non-profit organization launched the I Am Powerful campaign, which is committed to empowering women in the fight against global poverty.

In the communities we visited, I saw that with the right tools and training, combined with hard work and determination, women are able to lift themselves, their families and their communities out of complete depths of despair and poverty.

On my journey, I met extraordinary Zambian women who define what it means to be powerful. They are strong, humble and exhibit fierce resilience in situations where they could easily be defeated. They showed me what it means to be a part of a community. From village to village, I saw women working together in support of each other — from building dams, to farming their gardens, to feeding malnourished children … I feel so blessed to have experienced why the I Am Powerful initiative exists.

There is so much joy, so much pure beauty in Zambia! With so many negative images of extreme poverty associated with Africa, I am thankful that I was able to encounter a more hopeful view. In so many of the villages, we were greeted with welcome songs. The universal language of smile and song was always present, and although I was miles away from home, I felt accepted as a dear friend.

ETalk host Tanya Kim with her Zambian friends.

My goal in working with CARE on this adventure was to bring hope and inspiration to the people I met in Zambia. But instead, it was I who was filled with hope and inspiration after being so warmly welcomed into the lives and hearts of so many. The journey reminded me of the power that strength, hard work, and determination can have on making my life better.

One of the most touching moments for me was during a visit to a gardening collective. The women proudly showed me the rows of maize, potatoes and onions they were growing, and danced with joy at sharing the results of their hard work. The group sells the produce, pouring all of the profits back into helping their communities.

I left Zambia with a renewed sense of the importance of passion for your work and compassion for others. I am so fortunate to have a career I love, close family and friends, and I am reinvigorated to continue working to help the people around me. We all have a role to play in the fight against poverty. Every little bit helps in making a difference.

Tanya Kim is the host of eTalk and one of Canada's leading authorities on music and popular culture.

Letters

Decision to bail out Big Three appalling

I am writing as a concerned Canadian who is appalled by the decision to bail out the Big Three in Canada and the U.S.

I understand the role these companies play in providing jobs, and therefore their role in the greater economy. But I feel it is unjust to support them by taking from the pockets of working Canadians.

Free-market capitalism, as I understand it, dictates that producers must supply a product to the market that meets a demand, thereby securing profit and allowing said producers to remain in the marketplace, independent of government intervention. This is the same fiscal model the Conservative government of Canada endorses as a justification for the failure to address rampant homelessness, poverty and ecological irresponsibility.

Perhaps the government should, rather than handing out taxpayers' money, suggest that the Big Three work towards developing more affordable, sustainable and marketable products.

RUSSELL MCGEE, EDMONTON

Media focusing too much on the negatives

Re: How can we turn this public mood around? (Dec 19)

I'd have to agree with Mr. Sewell about the low spirit of the populace today in Toronto. I must however add that I feel that the media, who tend to highlight anything negative, plays a great part in this.

Most negative occurrences today, like the economic downturn, are cyclical in nature and things will turn for the better within the forseeable future.

News reports should focus on the positives and keep up the hopes of our people.

PETER E. WYLIE, TORONTO

Spread the message of hope this Christmas

If ever the world needed the true message of Christmas, I would say it is now. I'm not talking about the preoccupation with materialism we so readily identify with this season. The real spirit of Christmas is all about hope in the midst of depression, something that we need today.

GERALD HALL, NANOOSE BAY, B.C.

It's your turn to tell others what you think. E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: torontoletters@metronews.ca

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'The vagaries of the economic climate' force boutique's closure
Hazel Luxury for Women, a Yorkville Avenue boutique that sells $80,000 coats and $30,000 handbags, has succumbed to "the vagaries of the economic climate which engulfed her," according to a statement released Friday. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Business in brief

MARKETS Toronto's S&P/TSX composite index fell 201.37 points to 8,350.63 as disheartening news from Toyota delivered the latest blow to the struggling auto industry, and sparked fears for manufacturing jobs in Ontario and Quebec.

DONATIONS London-based drug maker GlaxoSmithKline is banning corporate political contributions, sending a signal the company does not seek special privileges from politicians in exchange for financial support. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Recession mindset fuels slide

Canadians have plunged into a "psychology of recession" that could further damage the economy, says the Conference Board after its latest survey found consumer confidence skidding to the lowest level in 26 years.

"I think what's happened in the last month is that loss of confidence has become very personal, people are now worried about their financial circumstances and about their job," Glen Hodgson, the Ottawa think-tank's chief economist, told a news conference.

"That's why there's an anticipation we're going to have a stimulus package to try and break the economy out of this very negative downward cycle of a psychology of recession."

Prime Minister Stephen Harper said last week that the Jan. 27 budget will contain a stimulus package of infrastructure spending, job retraining and tax cuts in the $15 billion to $25 billion range. THE CANADIAN PRESS

By the numbers

- The Conference Board's monthly survey of consumers found Canadians' confidence about the economy plunging 3.3 points to 67.7 in December.

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Toyota forecasts tough times

AUTOS Toyota Motor Corp. projected its first operating loss since it began such reports, acknowledging yesterday that its sales growth had stalled.

Crashing auto demand, especially in its key U.S. market, and the profit erosion from a surging yen proved too much for the top automaker.

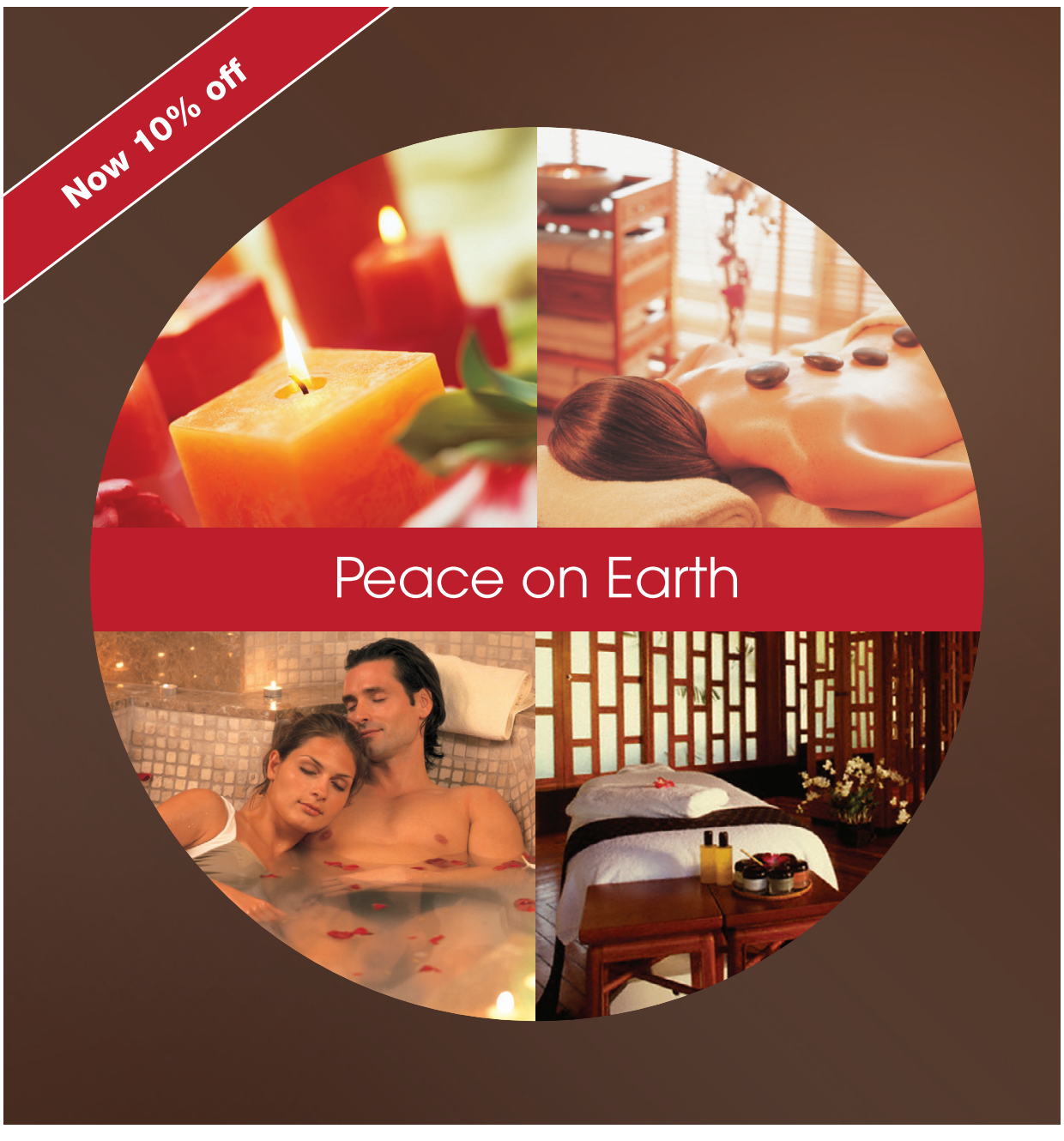
Toyota's president refused to give a sales goal for 2009, and lowered the company's net profit forecast to just 50 billion yen ($555 million US) for the year through March — a fraction of the 1.7 trillion yen it earned the previous year. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ontario and Quebec to be hardest hit

RECESSION The manufacturing-based provinces of Ontario and Quebec will be hardest hit in the current recession, while Saskatchewan will outperform the rest of the country thanks to its well-diversified mix of natural resources, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce says.

The chamber said 2009 will be "challenging" for all regions as the economy is expected to "slow considerably over the next couple of quarters" into a recession.

The national business body predicts the economy will "slowly rebound" in the second half of 2009, and that loonie is facing "extra volatility" in the near term due to the political situation in Ottawa and the pending federal budget. THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Your Money

EDITOR: NINA DRAGICEVIC, NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA

'Tis the season to give back

SmartCookies

By now, you've probably done your fair share of dodging crowds at the mall and most likely made the majority of your obligatory party rounds — gaining a pound or two in the process!

And as your thoughts turn to how you are going to complete the holiday shopping in time, it's important to take a time out to consider helping those less fortunate. We've compiled a list of ways that you and your family can give back this holiday season without taking up too much time or money.

Time:

Donating your time to a cause is an incredibly generous way to give. Choose an organization that is important to you and would be in need of volunteers. Maybe you have a charity that are involved with or you have heard of a local charity that you think would be a good fit.

Skills:

Just like we suggest you use your skills and experience to barter for products or services, you can also use your skills and services to give back. Some of us use our marketing/PR skills to give back to local organizations like Feed the Need and Quest. Consider a skill that you have that would be helpful to a charitable organization. Anything from working on an organization's website, to writing newsletters, recruiting volunteers or organizing fundraising activities would be appreciated.

Items:

At this time of year many charities prefer unwrapped gifts and food donations. However there are a number of organizations that will take everything from gently used clothing items to household items, blankets, etc. Contact your local shelters to find out what they need the most during the holidays.

Every little bit counts for families in need this season.

Money:

When donating money to a charity, make sure they are a trustworthy and well managed organization so you are able to give confidently. You want to ensure your hard earned and generous donation is going towards the right thing. It's a great idea to contact the organization of interest and ask about how donated money is allocated and what the short and long terms goals are of the organization. It's also a great idea to confirm how much money you need to donate in order to receive a tax receipt.

If our wallets are feeling the pinch then you can be certain all of the organizations that assist others are also feeling it. Every little bit counts for families in need this season.

For a list of local charities in your area check out charity.com

Happy giving and happy holidays!

Contact us at smartcookies@metronews.ca. For more tips for saving and giving back, check out Smart Cookies Guide to Making More Dough, available in bookstores.

Tune in Wednesday night at 9 p.m. EST/PST on the W Network and be sure to visit smartcookies.com for more tips.

Investing

Allan Small

The week's column investigates whether it's a good time to buy gold. Visit metronews.ca

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Henry Choo Chong

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Q **If I used my CIBC RRSP shares for paying down my mortgage and the balance to re-purchase another stock, what capital gains will I pay? Can I defer my Homebuyers Plan repayment this year?** Sameer

A You are not taxed on the capital appreciation in your RRSP, but withdrawals will be fully taxable at your marginal tax rate. The repurchase of stocks will not reduce your tax burden and you must include, as income, the annual non-repayment of HBP. Plan for what could be the worst recession in several decades.

Increase income:

Look for opportunities to increase your income. Ask for a raise, another position or more work (pay as well) at your current job. Second jobs can do wonders. It's more interesting than being a couch potato.

Consolidate credit cards and bank accounts

Keep no more than one or two credit cards. Why have temptations? Why pay interest on some cards at 12 per cent and others at 28 per cent? Get rid of the higher interest cards. Reduce bank charges on your bank accounts. Who needs chequing, savings, chequing-savings, high-interest savings, low-fee chequing accounts? One or two are all you need.

Invest on a regular basis:

Don't just invest when the stock market is booming.

Reach Henry Choo Chong, CGA, at choochonghcga@yahoo.ca.

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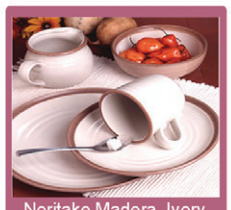
Noritake Madera Ivory
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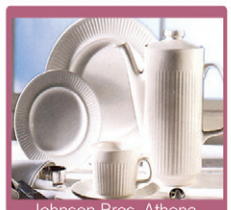
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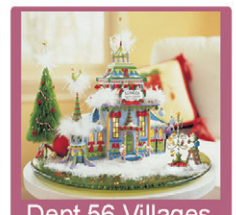
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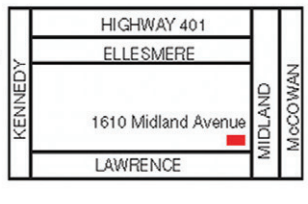

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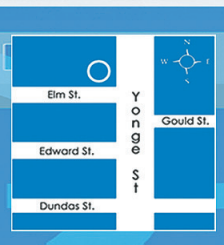

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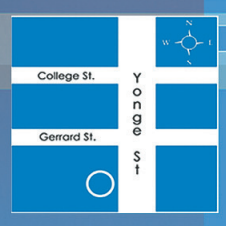

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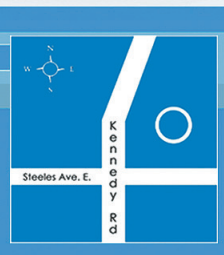

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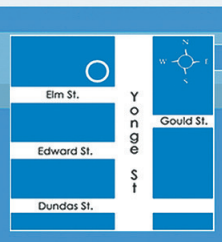

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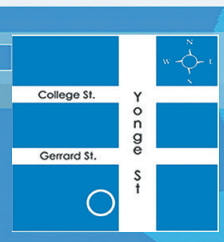

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No suspense for top racing awards

Somebeachsomewhere was a unanimous selection for the O'Brien trophy, Standardbred Canada announced yesterday in unveiling the respective finalists for Canadian harness racing's top awards. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

Cavaliers deny interest in VC

According to a report by CBS Sports, the Cleveland Cavaliers have denied they have interest in trading for Nets star and former Toronto Raptor Vince Carter. The Cavs are expected to be a player in the NBA trade market before the trading deadline on Feb. 19.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Pogge rarely tested in win

NHL RESULT

Leafs 6 **Thrashers** 2

VS

The Leafs picked right up from where they left off Saturday night in Pittsburgh, skating extremely well, moving the puck effectively and keeping the play in the opposition zone last night.

Toronto poured 18 first-period shots at Thrashers goalie Kari Lehtonen compared to only six for Atlanta. Pogge made some sharp saves but spent most of the period admiring his team's work in the other end.

GETTY IMAGES

Justin Pogge looks for a shot from Ilya Kovalchuk last night.

The Leafs kept up the pace and for much of the period. It looked almost too easy as they moved the puck without much opposition and controlled it in the Atlanta zone.

Part of the problem for Atlanta was an obvious awareness against taking penalties. These two teams pounded each other in Toronto last month, and players on both sides took mental notes for this meeting last night.

Atlanta lacked a physical presence in the first 20 minutes and looked like it was trying to avoid needless penalties. That seemed to play into the Leafs' hands. The first period was the time to establish a toughness and send a message to the Leafs that the homeside was taking no prisoners on home ice.

Pogge was rarely tested again in the second period. Atlanta had one flurry where Ilya Kovalchuk and linemates Marty Reasoner and Colby Armstrong pressured the Leafs for over a minute and came close to scoring.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

No TSN2 still leaving Raptors fans in the dark

Barring a Christmas miracle of Dickensian proportions, Toronto Raptors fans will be getting nothing more than a "bah, humbug" from the people who control the television fate of their favourite team.

The Raptors' game against the L.A. Clippers was on TSN2 last night, which means that Rogers Cable subscribers in southern Ontario once again weren't be able to watch because of the drawn-out battle between TSN and Canada's largest cable company.

That's five games Rogers customers have missed so far, with many more to come. Nobody thinks this dispute will last all season. But then nobody — including the Raptors — expected this to continue past October.

It's not a new situation, though. The NFL Network started airing games nationally in the U.S. with minimal distribution, as cable operators balked at the high asking price. A few years back, a similar dispute kept New York Yankees fans from watching games on TV.

And as in those cases, nobody wins.

Rogers may be using TSN2 as a bargaining chip to get better deals on some of TSN owner CTVglobemedia's other channels. Or maybe, as some have suggested, it's reluctant to help a channel that on many nights will carry something more compelling than the darts and poker offered by Rogers Sportsnet.

It's possible a deal could be done for the next TSN2 game on Jan. 2.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

VIDEO For a complete recap of last night's Raptors/Clippers game, visit us online at metronews.ca/sports

Canadian buys NASCAR team

NASCAR Just a month removed from his first NASCAR championship but hampered by the current economic crisis, owner Bill Davis has sold his race team. Mike Held, a California businessman, and Canadian Marty Gaunt, vice-president at Bill Davis Racing, bought out the veteran owner. Held, who owns a motorsports marketing firm and Gaunt, who grew up outside of Toronto, are hoping that as the economic crisis takes a toll on NASCAR, more teams will start outsourcing their engine and body work to them. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL Fan charged in Seau tackle

A fan, right, who tackled New England Patriots linebacker Junior Seau on the sidelines during Sunday's game was arraigned in a Massachusetts court yesterday. Todd Kolbus, 31, faces trespassing and assault and battery charges.

Sports in brief

CIS The University of Toronto has removed the interim tag from head football coach Greg DeLaval's job title. Yesterday, the school said DeLaval will become its full-time head football coach effective New Year's Day. DeLaval served as the Blues' interim coach last year and helped the squad snap its CIS-record 49-game losing streak with an 18-17 victory over Waterloo on Sept. 1. He recorded his second victory Sept. 13 with the Blues' lopsided 58-7 victory over York.

HOCKEY Evander Kane feels like he's been given the opportunity of a lifetime. The 17-year-old forward officially joined the Canadian junior team yesterday morning after a long day of travel from Vancouver. "Now that it's come for me, I'm obviously extremely excited to be here," Kane said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Yankees slammed by luxury tax
The New York Yankees not only failed to make the playoffs, they were hit with their highest luxury tax in three years. The Yankees were assessed a $26.9 million US tax by the MLB commissioner's office yesterday, up from $23.9 million last year and their biggest bill since paying nearly $34 million for 2005. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Canadian GM flies Falcons to surprise playoff spot

High atop the list of most excellent executives in the NFL this year — right up there alongside legendary league luminary Bill Parcells — is a former University of Guelph student who once served as a not-so-glorified gopher for the Saskatchewan Roughriders.

Were it not for the worst-to-first ascent of Parcells' Miami Dolphins, in fact, Thomas Dimitroff would be a shoo-in as the NFL's top exec of 2008.

Last January, Dimitroff accepted an offer to become the Atlanta Falcons general manager, a position several established NFLers flat-out rejected. The reason was that the Falcons were

YorkReport

Marty York

marty.york@metronews.ca

dogged — you should pardon the expression — by unprecedented nightmares last year. They were 4-12.

Their franchise quarterback — Michael Vick — was jailed because of his role in a dogfighting ring.

Their coach, Bob Petrino, quit after 13 games to return to college football.

Desperate, owner Arthur Blank turned to Dimitroff, who was scouting for the New England Patriots. Dimitroff hired Jacksonville Jaguars defensive co-ordinator Mike Smith as coach, acquired running back Michael Turner as a free agent and chose quarterback Matt Ryan third overall in the NFL draft.

All three flourished and, on Sunday, the Falcons qualified for the post-season.

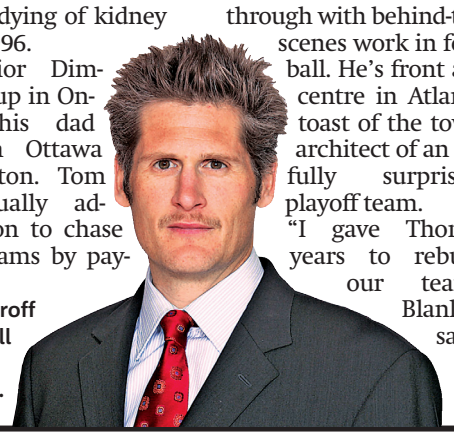
"Never thought this could happen this year, never," Blank told Metro on Sunday after Atlanta's playoff-clinching triumph in Minnesota. "This is the season of miracles, thanks to Thomas."

Those of us who followed the CFL closely in the late 1990s knew Dimitroff as a poorly paid (about $16,000 a year) front-office employee in Saskatchewan.

After an ordinary stint as a defensive halfback at Guelph, he joined the Riders for odd jobs, ranging from ticket sales to promotions.

Football was in his blood. His father was a football lifer. Tom Dimitroff coached and scouted in the CFL and NFL before dying of kidney cancer in 1996.

The junior Dimitroff grew up in Ontario as his dad coached in Ottawa and Hamilton. Tom Sr. continually advised his son to chase his GM dreams by paying his dues. Thus, Thomas did the Ordinary Joe Jobs in Saskatchewan, the World League of American Football, a Japanese league and then in Cleveland, where he spent much of his time literally painting the Browns' football field.



Thomas Dimitroff played football at the University of Guelph.

At 42, Dimitroff is through with behind-the-scenes work in football. He's front and centre in Atlanta, toast of the town, architect of an awfully surprising playoff team.

"I gave Thomas years to rebuild our team," Blank said.

"And he did it in months. He's a special guy.

"We're very proud of him. Canada should be proud of him, too."

From ground up

- "Thomas would come into our office and he'd just be covered in paint. He'd have it in his hair and he'd stink from sweat." New England Patriots executive Scott Pioli, recalling his days together with Canadian Thomas Dimitroff in the Cleveland Browns' front office. Dimitroff is being heralded these days as a genius in the NFL, where he built the Atlanta Falcons into a playoff team as a rookie GM.

Yi targeted in age investigation

NBA NBA player Yi Jianlian is being investigated by a Chinese-language magazine which claims he is one of many of the country's athletes guilty of lying about their age on official documents.

Yi Jianlian

Yi, who plays for the New Jersey Nets, has long been reported in the Chinese media to be older than his records show.

The December issue of the Chinese-language edition of Sports Illustrated said a reporter for the magazine found records from Yi's middle-school registration in his hometown in southern China that said he was born in 1984.

His official basketball records say he was born in 1987. He is also listed by the Nets as being born Oct. 27, 1987.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CSA defends itself from criticism over expenses

Prior to their failed World Cup qualifying campaign, Canadian players talked of the need for change within the Canadian Soccer Association.

While there were larger complaints, mostly of the need for better funding, some pointed the finger at the team's travel and training arrangements.

"Little details do make a difference," midfielder Julian de Guzman said in September 2007.

"Those are the little things that add up and make a difference when you're trying to prepare yourself for this kind of competition," goalkeeper Greg Sutton echoed earlier this month, citing poor training pitches among other issues.

"You look at a couple of times the way we travelled last year, we were spending long hours in airports, and long hours in flights and long hours in layovers," he added. "That obviously takes a toll on your body, especially the older guys. You're staying in hotels with average beds compared to nicer beds. It makes a difference. All those things add up."

Canada's elite soccer players may not travel like the millionaires that wear the England shirt, but a look at the bottom line shows that the Canadian Soccer Association considerably upgraded travel arrangements for World Cup qualifying.

And CSA officials like Peter Montopoli (general secretary) and Morgan Quarry (national team manager) defend the way the team travelled and was treated during qualifying.

"I can say in dealing with the players and Paul (Stalteri) in particular as the captain, that we've had those discussions and he was very positive in terms of what the CSA had laid out for the team in terms of the preparation and what the players were asking for from a travel perspective," Montopoli said.

After a Sept. 6 game in Montreal, the team flew on a $120,000 charter to Tuxtla Gutierrez and back to ease travel for a Sept. 10 game with Mexico.

The charter from Montreal to Mexico took eight hours, with a stopover in Houston for refuelling.

In all, the CSA spent $1.3 million on the men's national team in 2007, not including salaries. In 2008, that figure was closer to $2.4 million.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada's Patrice Bernier leaves the field after he was given a red card during a 2010 World Cup qualifying game against Honduras in Montreal in September.

More trouble for Giants' Burress

NFL Suspended New York Giants receiver Plaxico Burress is being sued for rear-ending a car driven by a woman in Florida last May. A document provided by the woman's attorney claims the insurance for Burress' $140,000 US Mercedes lapsed three days before the crash and he neglected to pay his premiums. Burress is suspended by the New York Giants for shooting himself Nov. 29 in a nightclub with an illegally carried handgun.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

SCOREBOARD

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

TORONTO 6 Atlanta 2
Pittsburgh 4 Buffalo 3 (OT)
Phoenix at Edmonton
Anaheim at Vancouver

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Orlando 113 Golden State 81
Houston 114 New Jersey 91
L.A. Lakers at Memphis
Sacramento at San Antonio
Portland at Denver
Toronto at L.A. Clippers

Enrolment boom at N.L. trade schools

Enrolment growth at trade schools in Newfoundland and Labrador is being attributed to the impact of the economic downturn on work at Alberta oilsands. Academy Canada is reporting an enrolment increase of 20 per cent over last year. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

Gas leak

About 40 students living in St. John's Institute, a private residence just off the University of Alberta campus, evacuated the building last week following the discovery of a carbon monoxide leak originating from the residence's boiler room. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS DUNLOP, DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Cozy comfort and a perfect cup

Broadview Espresso creates inspirational atmosphere in the east end

Small Business

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

RAFAEL BRUSILOW/FOR METRO CANADA

Broadview Espresso's owner Mike Cullen often heard "thank God you're not Starbucks," from his patrons upon opening his coffee shop.

In a cozy joint hopping with repeat customers and wafting with the gentle musk of good coffee beans, Mike Cullen slaves over the perfect cup of coffee.

The 34-year-old coffee aficionado is the owner and proprietor of Broadview Espresso in Toronto's east end (817 Broadview Ave.), a coffee shop renowned for its community-friendly charm and outstanding coffee in an age where mass-market outlets like Starbucks rule the day.

The shop opened just three months ago in the husk of a former porn store and is regularly swamped with repeat customers ravenous for something traditional and inviting.

"The comment I kept getting in the first few weeks was, 'Thank God you're not Starbucks.' People want a place that is warm, inviting and unpretentious," Cullen said.

Cullen saved a lifetime's worth of tips from waiting tables to open Broadview Espresso and the shop exudes that sense of passion and hard work. Art for sale by local artists adorns the walls, espresso-toned wood panelling lines the floor and counters and a pair of gorgeous upholstered chairs invite some well earned relaxation-by-macchiato. Unlike the dreary, serious faces prevalent at many coffee places, customers at Broadview Espresso actually seem to be smiling.

"I have people that come here at 9 a.m. and leave at 4 p.m. in the afternoon. People tell me they get inspired here," Cullen said.

An aspiring restaurateur since the age of 15, Cullen has spent most of his adult life travelling the world, working in restaurants and exploring his love for food.

"Food and drink has become my passion in life. I love eating food, I love cooking food and I love being around food. I also love people — I love getting to know them and connecting with them," Cullen said.

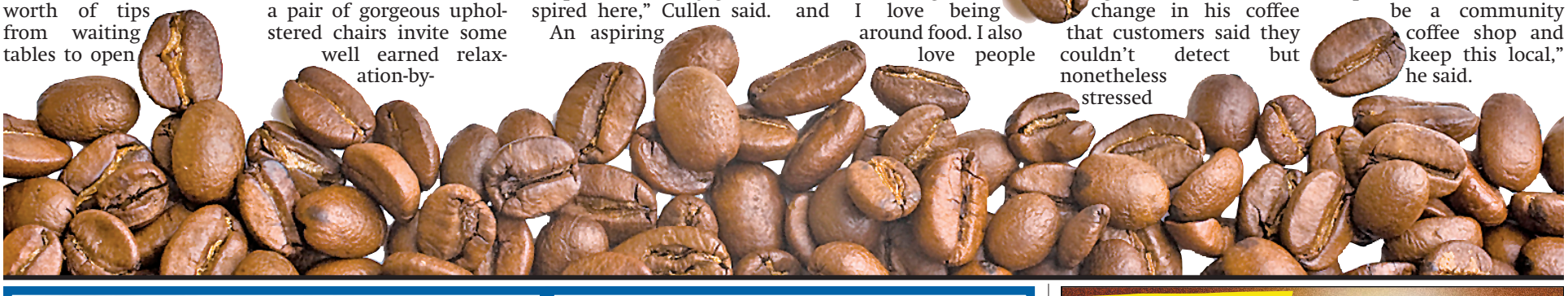
A true coffee connoisseur, Cullen drinks his coffee straight — no sugar, milk or other additives — and obsesses about the taste. A short while ago, he noticed a change in his coffee that customers said they couldn't detect but nonetheless stressed Cullen out. He embarked on a personal crusade, consulting with sales reps, testing his coffee beans and hassling suppliers in an effort to fix the problem. Eventually, a plumber found a pinhole leak in one of the shop's water lines — barely worth fixing by normal standards but the resulting drop in water pressure was enough to frustrate Cullen's palate.

"It totally disrupted the taste of my coffee and I really care about what I'm putting out here," Cullen said.

Cullen hopes his focus on being part of the local community will continue to keep customers coming back.

"People are tired of the corporate brands. I want to be a community coffee shop and keep this local," he said.

"I have people that come here at 9 a.m. and leave at 4 p.m. in the afternoon. People tell me they get inspired here."
Broadview Espresso owner Mike Cullen



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High River considers potential for satellite campuses
The Town of High River, located in southern Alberta, is looking at having more post-secondary institutions set up satellite campuses in the town. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Love motivated Gemini win

ETHAN ROTBERG
for Metro Canada

For Ian Hanomansing, there was no Plan B.

The CBC news anchor, who won his first Gemini award back in November, recalls that from a young age he knew he wanted to be in broadcasting.

Hanomansing, who was born in Trinidad and Tobago and grew up in Sackville, N.B., remembers as a child being able to hear New York and Boston radio stations from his home.

"I became absolutely entranced with radio at a young age," he said. "It was really magical for me to hear those stations so far away."

His broadcast career started at CKDH in Amherst, N.S., during the summer after graduating from Mount Allison University. He later started working for CBC at bureaus in the Maritimes and Toronto before moving to Vancouver 20 years ago.

"The Gemini doesn't make you a better anchor, only that a group of people thought you were the best on that particular day. It is gratifying though, it's a nice recognition."
Ian Hanomansing

As a reporter, Hanomansing has covered some of the most important recent events. Several stick out in his mind, such as the L.A. riots in 1992, the Stanley Cup riots in Vancouver in 1994 and the Canada's gold-medal men's hockey win in Salt Lake City in 2002.

Now, after working for the CBC for 22 years, his Gemini win for best news anchor in Canada has him feeling philosophical.

"When you are nominated and don't win, it gives you a better perspective on winning," he said. "The Gemini doesn't make you a better anchor, only that a group of people thought you were the best on that particular day. It is gratifying though, it's a nice recognition."

His advice to people just starting their career is that sometimes you have to teach yourself how to get there.

"I never had any broadcast training," he explained. "I either learned by myself or learned from the person above me. Its important to think about what you want and then figure out how to get it."

For Hanomansing, his goals are simply to continue to have the opportunity to work on good assignments.

"Most of the time, I love my job. That's how I'm motivated."

ETHAN ROTBERG/FOR METRO CANADA
Ian Hanomansing knew from a young age he wanted to be a broadcaster.

Cave-school found in Ozarks

Almost 200 years ago, children trekked through woods into a dark canyon in the easternmost reaches of the Ozark Mountains. They did this regularly for years, assembling in a cave to learn.

Believed to be the first school in Arkansas, the cave served early settlers and those who followed them through much of the 19th century. Baptist minister Caleb Lindsey started the school in 1817, presumably teaching children Bible lessons, along with "reading, writing and 'rithmetic."

Bill Carroll, Lindsey's great-great-great nephew, said little is known about the school curricula or what lengths both teacher and students went to in the name of education. But Carroll, 61, remembers his great-grandmother telling him of going to school in a nearby community.

Cave markings

- Today, a concrete wall, probably built in the 1940s, keeps out visitors to the cave. On the wall, someone has written a "footnote" in red paint — "the first school in Arkansas ... see Dalton's History of Randolph County page 43."

"More than once bears and panthers chased her pony on her way to school, so these kids must have really wanted an education," he said. "As for why a cave, well, it's just about the right size for a small classroom. You know caves are pretty much the same temperature all year. If you have a kerosene lamp in there, it will both light and heat it."

The School Cave, as Carroll calls it in a history he wrote for The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture, was operating for nearly two decades before Arkansas became a state in 1836. The region was part of the Missouri Territory then.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Training on hold in new economy

Training is taking a back seat to other priorities in some accounting departments, a new survey suggests.

Nearly one in five (18 per cent) chief financial officers (CFOs) interviewed said they don't expect to offer employee training in the next two years. Among companies that do have training programs planned, 30 per cent of finance executives plan to invest in information technology (IT) skills development and another 26 per cent foresee offering courses in accounting and finance.

The survey was developed by Accountemps and conducted by an independent research firm.

"Employers seek accountants who are able to maximize technology to reduce inefficiencies and enhance profitability," said Max Messmer, chairman of Accountemps.

Here are some tips for enacting training and development initiatives that don't break the bank:

- Explore e-learning options. The Internet offers a wide variety of effective training options for professionals while also saving employers the time and expense of sending personnel off-site for instruction.
- Take advantage of trade associations. Encourage staff to join professional organizations. These groups provide opportunities for their members — often at a substantial discount — to update their knowledge of business and industry fundamentals.

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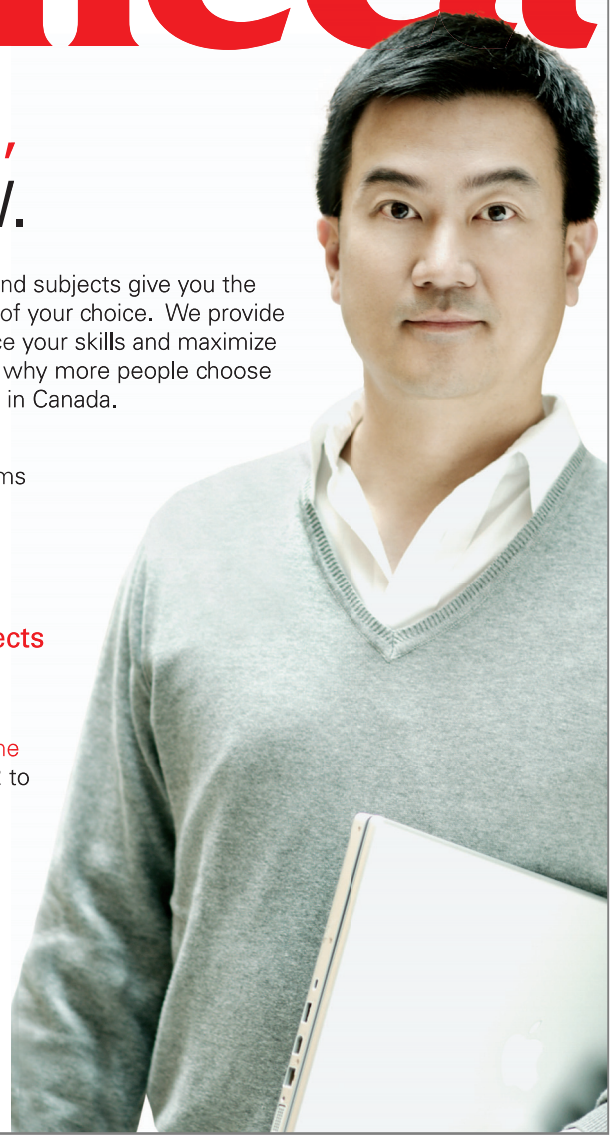

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Health & Beauty

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE COLACINO, ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

Money doesn't buy happiness

Study finds people crave sense of purpose

CELIA MILNE
for Metro Canada

Next time someone in an expensive SUV cuts you off, take solace in this: Money can buy fancy cars, but it can't buy happiness.

Researchers at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Md., studied happiness from a scientific perspective, including its genetic, psychological, sociological and biological underpinnings.

They found that it's not the almighty dollar that makes people happy, but rather a sense of purpose. This may be a good message to remember as we head into the holidays during a tough recession, when many have less spending money. Although living in abject poverty is not conducive to happiness, once you have the basic things you need in life, higher levels of income don't increase happiness.

Happiness can be measured — but not bought, scientists reported in the December issue of Mayo Clinic Women's HealthSource.

Your age and stage of life also have an effect on happiness. Middle age is a particularly stressful time of life, according to a study of about two million people in almost 80 countries. Mental distress peaks for women at around 40 and for men at around 50. Later in life, in your 60s and 70s, you tend to be more content. (Perhaps because the kids with their clutter have moved away?)

Social connectedness is another factor that increases happiness. This may help explain why women, on the whole, are happier than men. While women tend to join clubs, classes, and social groups, men — especially older men — often allow themselves to become socially isolated. Although they may not initially realize it, this ultimately makes men less happy than women.

Get active

• Want to be happier? Researchers suggest intentionally participating in activities you enjoy. It sounds obvious, but most of us probably don't do it often enough. CELIA MILNE /FOR METRO CANADA

Life circumstances cannot be ignored in measuring happiness: Events that occur — good or bad — definitely have an effect on well-being, but some people are quite resilient even in the face of negative circumstances. Genes play a role here, perhaps even accounting for as much as half of individual differences in well-being. Thinking positively, or seeing the world through rose-coloured glasses, may be largely genetic. Optimistic people tend to live longer.

Gaining more education boosts happiness, probably because it provides more choices in life. Not surprisingly, so does excellent health. Health and happiness are closely tied to each other.

Happiness can be measured — but not bought, scientists reported in the December issue of Mayo Clinic Women's HealthSource.

Pregnant women running and jumping? It's Aquafit

Fifteen women, all in varying stages of pregnancy, splash to the beat of the music in the pool, while their instructor paces the deck and shouts for them to "twist it out," followed by directions to sprint and "push, push" — words that foreshadow what they'll be doing in a few weeks as they give birth.

Over the next 45 minutes, the women will stretch, jump, float and use noodles and flutter boards as part of a fitness routine that's specially tailored to women in their second and third trimester of pregnancy. Katherine Hyrcza is a glowing eight months pregnant, and says she joined the class for two reasons.

"The buoyancy helps. You feel free and weightless. It's just easier to do a lot of the movements that would've been much harder on land."
Katherine Hyrcza , eight months pregnant

"It's the networking with other women and listening to their experiences, as well as the exercise part which gets my endorphins going," she said during the conversation portion of the class that preceded plunging into the pool.

"The buoyancy helps. You feel free and weightless. It's just easier to do a lot of the movements that would've been much harder on land."

Julie McLachlan, also eight months pregnant, agreed.

"When you're in the pool you don't feel really like it's a huge workout ... but the next day, you definitely ... feel it. So it's comforting to know also that you're not putting a lot of pressure on your bones and your joints, and you're not overworking yourself."

Instructor Trish Del Sorbo, director of Baby & Me Fitness, noted that some pregnant women feel more comfortable exercising in the water.

"There are some advantages to water fitness. No. 1 is that your core temperature just tends to stay cooler because you are in the water, so it's a constant cooling effect," she said.

"The water doesn't allow you to do quick jarring motions ... Women can jump, they can run in the water, which is generally not recommended on land."

Michelle Mottola, director of the R. Samuel McLaughlin Foundation exercise and pregnancy lab at the University of Western Ontario, said every expectant mother should have medical approval or screening by her doctor, midwife or nurse practitioner before entering into an exercise program.

Mottola is the co-author of PARmed-X (physical activity readiness medical examination) for pregnancy guidelines to help determine whether a woman should exercise. The guidelines can be obtained through the Canadian Society for Exercise Physiology, she said.

"Usually we suggest that they wait until after their first trimester, which would be the first three months. So any time after 12 weeks, if they're medically cleared, they can start an exercise program," Mottola said from London, Ont.

Mottola said the water temperature for pregnant women should be below 30 C, and she advised against instructors putting them in the deep end.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Julie McLachlan, 24, who is eight months pregnant, takes part in an aqua fitness class with other pregnant women in Toronto.

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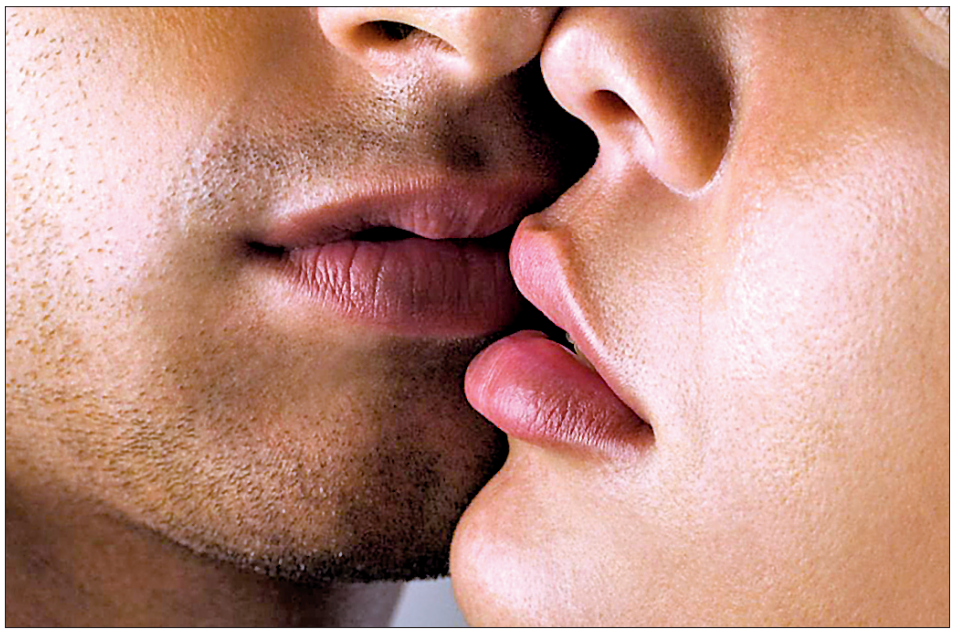
When innocence goes up for sale

The J Spot


Saving your virginity until marriage is a choice made for health, moral and/or religious reasons.

But, the fact is, there's really no way to prove whether a girl has done it. The most popular idea that an intact hymen is proof of her virginity is completely false, says Hanne Blank, American historian and author of Virgin: The Untouched History.

You have to wonder how Mary got everyone to believe she was a pregnant virgin. Sure, that whole Immaculate Conception was a pretty clever ruse, but Joseph had to be at least a little suspicious on their wedding night.

I wondered the same thing when I heard guys were bidding millions to be 22-year-old San Diego-based Natalie Dylan's first. Earlier in the fall, Dylan (not her real name) auctioned off her virginity to the highest bidder in order to help pay for graduate school to become a marriage and family therapist.

Bids came in from more than 5,000 men and ranged from $1 to $3.8 million. If I'm spending that kind of dough, I'd want proof.

But, the fact is, there's really no way to prove whether a girl has done it. The most popular idea that an intact hymen is proof of her virginity is completely false, says Hanne Blank, American historian and author of Virgin: The Untouched History.

Hymens run the gamut, says Blank, from thick and resilient to thin and fragile, making them easy to break in a myriad of ways and therefore lousy indicators of whether a young woman has had intercourse yet.

In fact, medical research isn't really sure why women even have a hymen. Some research suggests that it is simply vestigial tissue — that is, tissue that possibly once had a function in a different evolutionary stage but has since become redundant, much like our appendix.

Unfortunately, says Blank, they found a use for it when men become landowners and needed to know who their kids were so they could hand down their property (known as the paternity-property hypothesis in biology and anthropology circles).

The easiest way to do this was to marry a verified virgin. And proving that this flimsy bit of membrane was still intact seemed a plausible enough method of verification.

Except, as mentioned, given its flimsy nature, the state of a woman's hymen is a lousy way to prove virginity.

As result, people have come up with all kinds of ways to create this proof, like inserting a vial of pig's blood in the young woman's vagina on her wedding night so it would burst and stain the sheets, or undergoing hymen restoration surgery, increasingly popular among mostly Muslim immigrants in Europe who want to have their virginity "restored" for marriage.

Saving your virginity until marriage is a personal choice made for health, moral and/or religious reasons. Fine.

But undergoing surgery to "restore" your virginity or spending millions for a one-night stand with a virgin seems like a high price to pay for something you can't even prove.

In the business world, this would be considered a really bad investment.

Josey Vogels is a sex and relationship columnist and author of five books on the subjects. For more info, visit joseyvogels.com.

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Nuts instead of cereal

Type 2 diabetics who eat a diet rich in slower-to-digest foods like nuts, beans and lentils have better blood-sugar control and a lower risk of cardiovascular disease, compared with those whose diets rely more heavily on cereal-fibre foods, researchers suggest. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cheat on your hairdresser

Tips to keep your hair looking great in between salon visits

From **Best Health Magazine** on newsstands now besthealthmag.ca

BY YUKI HAYASHI

Is monogamy essential to a good client/hairstylist relationship? In an ideal world, you'd never have to stray from the person you trust most with your hair.

But in the real world, busy schedules or tight budgets often necessitate compromise. "I don't consider it 'cheating' when clients maintain their own look," says Toronto hairstylist Marc Anthony. "Ultimately, as a professional, I want my clients to look great all the time." While he advises against going cheap on anything drastic, such as a completely new hairstyle, highlights or colour change, there are times when you can justify getting a little somethin'-somethin' on the side, whether at home or at a walk-in chain.

While experts advises not going cheap on anything drastic, such as a completely new hairstyle, there are some things you can do at home or at a walk-in chain to save some cash.

The cheat: Stretch your time between salon colour treatments

Fix your roots at home, says Eric Del Monaco, consulting stylist for L'Oréal Paris. He swears it's simple: The key is to follow package instructions precisely, and to apply product neatly.

"Don't randomly apply it," says Del Monaco, who particularly likes the conditioning and shine-boosting results of the L'Oréal Paris Dream Blonde and Superior Preference collections. "Start from the front, and move to the back," taking care to get it on the roots only, then comb it through already coloured hair for the last five minutes.

John Rimes, a stylist and colour technician at Luscious Salon in Vancouver, says you can extend all-over colour from fading by using thermal styling products, which commonly contain amino acids and/or proteins to form a protective barrier between hair and potentially damaging heat-styling tools like hair dryers, curling irons and flat irons. Also, try to avoid using shampoo every day, he says.

The cheat: Relax your own hair

Chemically relaxing hair is generally a task best left to the pros, says Asha McLeod, stylist and co-owner of Jazma Hair Inc., in Toronto. "Otherwise, you risk chemical burns, and you can destroy your hair," he says. However, new hair growth can be relaxed safely if you follow these rules: Always enlist the help of a partner, buy the right relaxing product for your hair type, carefully follow instructions and use the correct maintenance products

"Check the ingredients and avoid any shampoos with sodium lauryl sulphate or any other salt," says McLeod. "They can dry and dehydrate relaxed hair."

She recommends Kera-Soft Enrich Conditioning Shampoo, followed by a humectant (moisture-attracting) or anti-humectant (moisture-resisting) conditioner, depending on whether your hair has been treated to be wavy, or straight, respectively.

The cheat: Get your bangs trimmed faster, cheaper

"Going to the hairdresser every two or three weeks just doesn't fit into my schedule," says Natalie Bahadur, an online editor based in Mississauga, Ont. To keep her blunt, dead-straight bangs in check, Bahadur sometimes pops into a $10 walk-in salon across the street from her condo. She minimizes surprises by requesting the least amount of cutting possible. "I always instruct the hairdresser to get my bangs out of my eyes but not above my eyebrows," she says.

When she feels up to the task, Bahadur also sometimes cuts her own bangs at home. If you go that route, buy five-inch haircutting scissors at a beauty supply store (or a large drugstore) and let freshly washed bangs dry before trimming (they will shrink as they dry).

Best Health is on newsstands now. For more, go to besthealthmag.ca.

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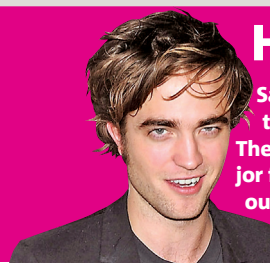
Back to the Future being re-released on DVD
A new two-disc DVD version of Back to the Future is coming out in February, bttf.com reports. The entire trilogy is getting a DVD re-release, but the website says the original 1985 film will come with a bonus disc that will contain the entire Back to the Future: The Ride. **IMDB.COM**

Entertainment



Hair frenzy

Say goodbye to Robert Pattinson's sexy tousled locks. The Twilight star caused a major frenzy when he stepped out this weekend with a new crew cut. **PEOPLE.COM**

EDITOR: DEAN LISK, DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Hamilton's all-stars

GRAHAM ROCKINGHAM
for Metro Canada

Hamilton has produced its share of great rock bands over the years, with Teenage Head and Junkhouse being two of the finest. Their music reflected the city — hard and gritty, always deserving but never quite famous.

Now we have a union of the two, an all-star Hamilton band if you will, called Sons of the Hammer (debuting at Toronto's Horseshoe Dec. 26 and Hamilton's Casbah on New Year's Eve). Unfortunately, it was a wedding forged out of the death of Teenage head frontman Frankie Venom, an unpredictable madman at the microphone and a perfect foil for the slashing guitar of Gord Lewis.

Showtime

- Sons of the Hammer play the Horseshoe Tavern on Dec. 26. Tickets are $20.

When Venom died two months ago of cancer, Teenage Head was undergoing somewhat of a renaissance. The release this year of the CD Teenage Head with Marky Ramone had critics rediscovering the band's classic work of the late '70s. The Head were touring again, filling rooms across Canada. But all that seemed to come to a halt with Venom's death.

Enter Tom Wilson, the shaggy sub-baritone poet at the heart of Junkhouse. In recent years, Wilson had been working the roots circuit as frontman for Blackie and the Rodeo Kings. But his three decades on the Hamilton scene had forged close ties with Teenage Head. So when a tribute to Venom was arranged for the Hamilton Music Awards last month, Wilson was asked to front the band's surviving members for a three-song set.

A week later, Wilson and Teenage Head followed up with a full-length show in Montreal as part of Grey Cup festivities. More than 1,200 people crammed into a downtown ballroom for the soldout show.

The new foursome took on Head standards as well as Wilson's solo repertoire and '90s Junkhouse favourites. On that stage, a new band was born. It wasn't Teenage Head and it wasn't Junkhouse. But it was all Hamilton.

The four original members of Teenage Head, including Frankie Venom on the far right, who died in October.

Reeves looks to honour Motown

PEOPLE Martha Reeves wants Motown greats like Stevie Wonder, Marvin Gaye, the Supremes — and herself — immortalized in statue-form at Detroit landmarks.

The Detroit Free Press reports that the city councilwoman and former lead singer of Martha and the Vandellas is pushing a plan for the life-sized sculptures.

Martha Reeves

She wants to raise at least $3 million US, with groundbreaking for some statues next year when the recording company celebrates its 50th anniversary.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rinna to bare all?

Soap opera legend and Dancing With the Stars favourite Lisa Rinna is reportedly set to pose nude for Playboy. The 45-year-old mother of two told Extra she may pose for the magazine. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Scaling back the glitz and glam

HOLLYWOOD The sleek shine of a designer gown, the gleam of a trophy, piles of gourmet food, a tipsy laugh. Award-show after-parties have always measured the glitz and glam of Hollywood, from the Golden Globes to the Grammys to the Oscars.

But this season, with the economy in shambles, entertainment jobs being slashed and the looming threat of a Screen Actors Guild strike, normally lavish parties are being scaled back or scrapped faster than certain starlets ditching the paparazzi.

With less bling, the words "appropriate" and "intimate" are being used more often to describe the suppressed soirees.

Oscar party planners are slicing guest lists and red carpets. Sony BMG's enormous annual Grammy after-party, which boasted 1,600 guests last season, has been cancelled, said a Sony BMG spokeswoman. Label EMI has not yet announced its party plans, but last time the bash was limited only to artists, songwriters and managers, compared to past mega parties.

"I think you're going to see everybody being more cost conscious. There's a line between glamourous and opulence that verges on the vulgar."
Craig Thompson

Meanwhile, there's cautious optimism among organizers of this season's Golden Globe parties, which were decimated last time by the Hollywood writers strike but are likely to re-emerge in the new year, albeit in a more subdued form.

"I think you're going to see everybody being more cost conscious. There's a line between glamorous and opulence that verges on the vulgar," said Craig Thompson, executive director of AIDS Project Los Angeles.

APLA's 5th annual Oscar viewing party and post-awards bash at West Hollywood's The Abbey will move forward on Feb. 22, said Thompson, but with the guest list sheared to 350 from last season's 650. And just in case of a SAG strike, cancellation clauses are in place on vendor contracts for up to two weeks before the event.

While last season's celebrity-studded celebration was held in a huge tent strung with golden lights behind the restaurant, this February's APLA party will move into the restaurant, similar to earlier years.

Vanity Fair plans to hold a down-sized version of its top-tiered Oscar party this season at West Hollywood's smaller Sunset Tower Hotel instead of its traditional home at Morten's restaurant.

Planning for the Governors Ball — the classy after-party held by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences to honour Oscar night winners — is also moving forward.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RENE JOHNSTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The editorial creators of Spacing from left: Shawn Micallef, Anna Bowness with her daughter, two-month-old River, writer Dale Duncan, Matt Blackett, Holland Gidney and Dylan Reid.

Devoted to Toronto

If a magazine could change the world, or at least Toronto, it would be Spacing.

The little publication that could celebrates its fifth anniversary this month, a milestone many would once have thought impossible. But timing, they say, is everything, and Spacing's couldn't have been better.

Its appearance back in 2003 coincided with a surge of interest in all things urban. With the exception of Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his Finance Minister Jim Flaherty, cities are on everyone's mind these days. As the worldwide condo boom — although slowing — has shown, people are hungry for urbanity.

For some, typically empty-nesters, that means leaving the suburbs behind and heading downtown. For others, including Spacing founder Matthew Blackett, 34, there was never an option; from the start he chose the city. Blackett, who grew up in North York, now lives in Parkdale.

"They have helped Torontonians understand that design matters, that public space and beautification matter."
David Miller

The magazine has helped develop a whole slew of young journalists who cover the same city issues as their (older) mainstream counterparts, but through an urban lens. Spacing's coverage of transit is a good example. Rather than restrict itself to the usual questions about politics and technology, routes, fares, and right-of-ways, it also explores what transit actually means to those who use it. This could include everything from the design of subway stations and rolling stock to the state of street shelters and TTC marketing efforts.

Spacing's outsider status, its mix of naiveté and independence, and its insistence on the primacy of first-hand experience over received wisdom are what make the magazine valuable. You get the impression these writers walk the streets of Toronto and pay attention to what they see.

"Their existence has helped create a climate that enables the city to do things like the Museum subway station," says Toronto Mayor David Miller, who often drops by Spacing's launch parties. "They have helped Torontonians understand that design matters, that public space and beautification matter." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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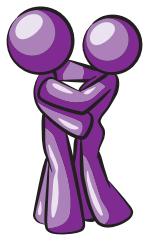
HOW TO TURN HIM ON

Men can be mysterious creatures, especially when it comes to what turns them on. Wouldn't it be great to know exactly what gets him hot? Read what real men say gets them in the mood.

Getting all hot and bothered starts with just getting together. Let your man know when the time is right and he'll be more than happy to skip out on a boys night out in exchange for what you have in mind.

Ask your guy to tell you where he likes to be touched. There are more than just the obvious hotspots. Even better, try to figure it out together.

Being confident in bed is sexy. Don't force something you're not comfortable with. Stick with what feels right and it'll enhance the mood for the both of you.



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DVD picks

The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor

Director: Rob Cohen
Rating: PG-13

SEVEN LONG YEARS after this irredeemable action series last busted our block, a third instalment of The Mummy arrives to demonstrate just how badly CGI and fan loyalty can be abused. There are many reasons why this pic should never have been wrapped.

Rachel Weisz, whose lively banter with co-star Brendan Fraser helped relieve the tedium of digital cadavers, took a pass on this quick-buck exercise. Also missing in action is Stephen Sommers, director of the first two films. His limitations seem positively trivial compared to the awesome hackitude of his successor Rob Cohen. Then there's the matter of the missing mummy. The fearsome undead Imhotep has been replaced by digitized Chinese terracotta warriors led by Jet Li's ceramic-chewing cameo of a fascist emperor.

Burn After Reading

Directors: Joel, Ethan Coen
Rating: R

YOU FORGIVE THE SILLY PLOT of this screwball spy comedy from Joel and Ethan Coen because of the adroitness of the character interaction and wordplay. It's their best laugher in a decade, cynically observing the "idiocy of today" in a paranoid and litigious Washington, D.C., where spooks tangle with angry spouses and grasping fitness-centre employees. It could make you feel sorry for the people tasked with the seemingly hopeless job of maintaining homeland security: "Now it seems like it's all bureaucracy and no mission," a character ruefully observes. John Malkovich is the linchpin of an A-list circus that includes George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Tilda Swinton, Frances McDormand and J.K. Simmons, all in top form.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Mockingbird director dies at age 83

PEOPLE Robert Mulligan, who directed the classic film To Kill a Mockingbird, with its sensitive look at a child's world shaken by the racism of a southern town, has died at 83.

Mulligan died early Saturday at his home in Lyme, Conn., after a battle with heart disease, his wife, Sandy, said yesterday.

Mulligan was nominated for an Oscar for Mockingbird, the adaptation of Harper Lee's best-selling, Pulitzer Prize-winning novel.

The 1962 film starred Gregory Peck, who won the best-actor Oscar for his portrayal of Atticus Finch, the small-town lawyer who defends a black man falsely accused of rape.

Among Mulligan's other credits were Fear Strikes Out, the 1957 drama starring Anthony Perkins as troubled ballplayer Jim Piersall, Summer of '42, the 1971 wartime coming-of-age story starring Gary Grimes and the 1972 horror hit The Other.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Schwarzenegger cameo rumours swirling

Rumours of a cameo by original Terminator Arnold Schwarzenegger in next year's sequel, Terminator Salvation, continue to swirl. When asked about a cameo, Schwarzenegger responded by saying, "You never know." METRO NEWS SERVICES

Great expectations for new Bond video game

The James Bond video-game franchise has a lot of history and a lot to live up to.

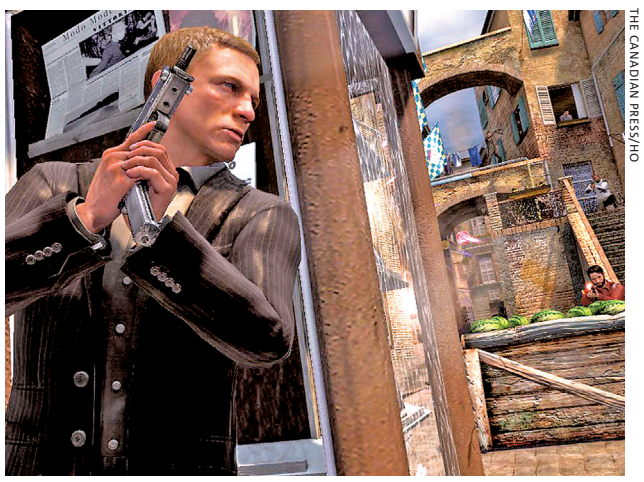
For Bond, the backstory is long and somewhat spotty. The jewel in the line was GoldenEye 007, developed by England's Rare Studio in 1997 for the Nintendo 64, a title that remains No. 17 on the Gamerankings.com all-time chart — sandwiched between Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas and Metal Gear Solid 2: Sons of Liberty.

The franchise is back on the shelves with Quantum of Solace, rated T for teen for the Nintendo Wii and DS, PC, PlayStation 2 and 3, and Xbox 360. Activision has published the title with developer Treyarch.

Quantum of Solace kept me going right to the end, even if I did curse a few times along the way.

The game comes to market with some heavyweight components — the likenesses and voices of both Judi Dench and Daniel Craig, foremost among them. Strangely, it covers both the Quantum of Solace and Casino Royale movies, starting with Quantum and then flashing back to Royale before returning to Quantum.

The game is faithful to the movies for the most part but switches up scenes like the opera in Quantum of Solace to improve game play.



THE CANADIAN PRESS/HO

Screenshot from the James Bond Quantum of Solace video game.

As you progress, you learn the key to survival is usually looking for the things you can blow up by shooting them — the game is full of gas tanks and fire extinguishers. Hit one of those and you can take out a plethora of bad guys.

There are some nice touches in the game. At the opening of a sequence in Venice, the camera flies through the air to offer a startling view of the city. And there are some challenging scenes, like the opening shootout at the desert hotel in the game's finale, that send wave after wave of enemies after you.

On the minus side, Bond looks bulky, as if just inflated. As a first-person shooter, however, you don't see him much.

Hand-to-hand combat is also too easy — all you have to do is hit the button that pops up on the screen.

But my biggest beef is the developers' solution in how you walk a plank or cross a girder. The bottom of the screen shows a level bubble that swings if you veer to the right or the left. The idea sounds straightforward but my attempts to make it across were like Ozzy Osbourne doing open-heart surgery. I failed miserably again and again.

It might just have been me but it was so frustrating, I almost gave up on the game on several occasions. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Olympics special on NBC
Thought you had heard the last of the Olympics until 2010? Think again. On Saturday, NBC will broadcast Beijing Olympics Opening Ceremony: TV Event of the Year, a two-hour special hosted by Bob Costas and Matt Lauer, according to The Hollywood Reporter. TVGUIDE.COM

Jury resumes deliberations in actor's trial

SHOOTING Deliberations have resumed in the trial of a former Sopranos actor accused in the shooting death of an off-duty New York City police officer.

Lillo Brancato

The Bronx jury yesterday began weighing murder charges against Lillo Brancato, who played a wannabe mobster on The Sopranos.

The jury last deliberated on Friday, a day after announcing it was deadlocked 11-1.

Prosecutors say Brancato and an accomplice broke into a Bronx apartment next to the home of Officer Daniel Enchautegui in December 2005. When the officer came to investigate, the accomplice shot him in the heart.

Brancato has pleaded not guilty. He got his big break playing opposite Robert De Niro in the 1993 film A Bronx Tale.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Wallace & Gromit clips off YouTube

ANIMATION It's a whodunit for the info age. The animators behind Wallace & Gromit say they have quashed a pirated recording of a Christmas special leaked on YouTube.
But Aardman Animations, based in Bristol, England, said recently it had "no idea" how the material slipped out. Three clips from A Matter of Loaf and Death, were uploaded to the video-sharing site Sunday. The special is scheduled to air on BBC television on Christmas Day. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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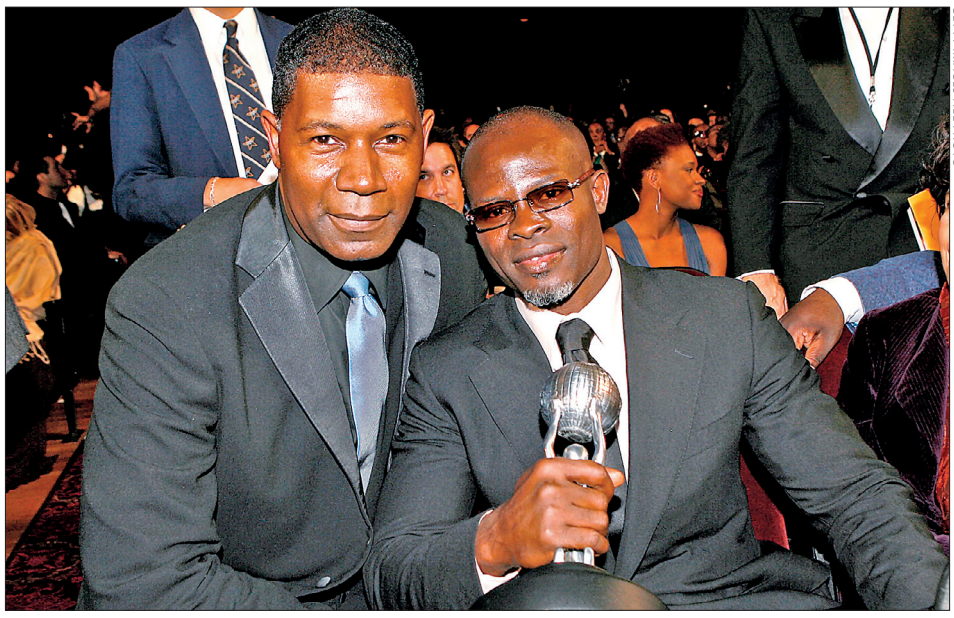
Shows lacking 'colour': Report

Networks not doing enough for ethnic diversity, NAACP says

Nearly a decade after the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People condemned a "virtual whiteout" in broadcast TV, the civil rights group says major U.S. networks have stalled in their efforts to further ethnic diversity on-screen and off.

Television shows of the future could be even less inclusive because of a failure to cultivate young minority stars and to bring minorities into decision-making positions, NAACP President and CEO Benjamin Todd Jealous said.

"This is America: So goes TV, so goes reality. We don't think it's any accident that before we had a black president in reality, we had a black president on TV," he said, referring to the chief executive portrayed by Dennis Haysbert on Fox's 24.


GETTY IMAGES FILE PHOTO
Dennis Haysbert, who portrayed a U.S. president in Fox's 24, and Djimon Hounsou, right, pose for photos at the 2007 annual NAACP Image Awards in Los Angeles. In a recent report, NAACP called on networks to revisit a 2000 agreement to diversify the ranks of actors, writers, directors and executives.

A "critical lack of programming by, for or about people of colour" can be traced in part to the lack of minorities who have the power to approve new series or make final creative decisions, said Vicangelo Bulluck, executive director of NAACP's Hollywood bureau.

In a recent report, NAACP called on networks to revisit a 2000 agreement to diversify the ranks of actors, writers, directors and executives. It also seeks to establish a task force with network executives, the NAACP and other civil rights groups.

The report raises the possibility of political action if progress is lacking, including a boycott against an unspecified network and its major advertisers or class-action litigation against the networks and parent companies.

Particularly disturbing, Jealous said, is the course charted by the CW, born of the defunct UPN and WB networks that had featured a number of black-oriented series including Moesha and The Steve Harvey Show.

"Those two networks provided an opportunity for young talent of colour in this town. ... They merged into a network which appears to have systematically cut programming targeted to communities of colour," Jealous said.

CW's lineup includes white-oriented shows Gossip Girl and 90210, although it also airs the black sitcoms Everybody Hates Chris and The Game.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TO		Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
12/23/08	primetime	265	353	2	TVO	Blue Realm Manta rays.		The Best of The Agenda		The Street		The Choir (Part 3 of 4)		Best-Agenda
		211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	House (HDTV PA)		NCIS "Requiem" (HDTV)		Painkiller Jane		News (N)
		215	343	4	OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Bouncers	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
		210	302	6	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	*Miracle on 34th Street* ★★★ (1994, Fantasy)				CBC News: The National		The Hour
		214	344	7	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Privileged (HDTV)		Rediscovered (N)		Hates Chris	Friends	News (N)
		212	313	8	CTV	Corner Gas	Hollywood	*Stolen Miracle* (2001, Drama) Leslie Hope.				Law & Order: SVU		News (N)
		218	345	11	E!	Tube Tales	TV Made, Do It	*Christmas Caper* (2007, Comedy-Drama) Premiere.				Inside Hollywood		News (N)
		137	763	13	TFO	Tout simple	Clipperton	Noël autour du monde		*Le Cirque* (1928, Comédie)		Le Cirque	Folie-aventure	Tout simple
		-	-	14	-	Cold Case "One Night"		News (N)		News (N)		Two/Half Men	King	Cold Case
		213	326	15	SUN	Scrubs	George Lopez	McCloud "The Million Dollar Roundup"				To Serve and Protect		Grill Rm.
		-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	Home for the Holidays		NCIS "Requiem" (HDTV)		The Mentalist (HDTV)		News (N)
		-	385	17	NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Law & Order (HDTV)		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		News
		-	386	18	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Grinch Stole Christmas		Rediscovered (N)		ABC's the List (N)		News
		219	346	20	ACH-B	Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye		*Chasing Christmas* (2005, Drama) Tom Arnold.				The Mentalist (HDTV)		News (N)
		-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy (N)	Two/Half Men	House (HDTV PA)		(9:01) Fringe		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
		-	388	61	PBS	News-Lehrer	Keeping Up	Nature (HDTV) (DVS)		Nova (HDTV) (DVS)				Business Rpt.
		297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	90210 (HDTV)		Privileged (HDTV)		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men
		296	654	331	SBK	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dr. Phil (HDTV)		WBZ News (N)	'70s Show	Frasier	Frasier	Punk'd
		298	653	332	TLA	Jamie Foxx	Wayans Bros.	My Wife-Kids	According-Jim	Family Guy	Family Guy	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	90210
	news	502	390	26	NW	CBC News	Fortune	The Hour		CBC News: The National		Snowdon and Margaret		National
		500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown: No Bias		Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
		509	504	79	CNB	CNBC Reports (HDTV)				On the Money		Conversations: Michael Eisner		Mad Money
	sports	405	417	22	net	Hockeycentral	NHL Hockey Dallas Stars at Toronto Maple Leafs. (HDTV) (Live)					Sportsnet Connected		Hockey Central
		400	400	30	TSN	Junior Hockey: IIHF World Championship Pre-Competition					SportsCentre	NHL Hockey: Canucks at Sharks		
		411	457	58	OLN	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman		Mantracker		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman
		417	406	81	SC	Pinks	Pass Time	Low Life	Low Life	Super Bikes!	Super Bikes!	Hot Import	Hot Import	Pinks
	family	551	542	25	YTV	Red-Nosed Reindeer		Malcolm-Mid.	Fresh Prince	Fries That?	Mystery Hnt.	Martin Mystery	Mon. Warriors	Mystery Hnt.
		554	544	45	TEL	*Dennis*	Gotta Catch Santa Claus		Stardust		Futurama	American Dad	Robot Chicken	Rick & Steve
		556	540	51	FAM	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
	cable variety	602	567	27	W	Friends	Will & Grace	Shopping Bags	Shopping Bags	*Crazy for Christmas* (2005, Drama) Andrea Roth.				Shopping Bags
		570	580	29	MM	Degrassi: Next	Instant Star	Much Comes Clean (N)		Punk'd	Punk'd	Punk'd	Punk'd	Punk'd
		615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami "Legal"		The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV)		Manhunters	Manhunters	Runaway
		700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	Serie A	Magnifica Italia	Nati Ieri		Raymond	Raymond	George Lopez
		571	581	36	MMM	News Special	Where You At	Where You At	Where You At	Celine Dion: Woman		Celebrity Wrestling		Tommy Lee
		575	583	38	CMT	Canada Countdown		Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba	Three Wishes		Doc
		616	521	39	SHO	*Recipe for a Perfect Christmas* (2005, Romance-Comedy)				Testees	Trailer Park	House "Human Error"		House
		620	523	40	BVO	Desperate Housewives		Celtic Angels at Christmas		Come Into the Parlour		Tell It On The Mountain		Law & Order
		601	562	41	SLC	Til Debt-Part	Rich Poor	Date My Ex: Jo & Slade		Rich Bride, Poor Bride		End of Leash	End of Leash	ET Canada
		522	506	43	HIS	NCIS "Light Sleeper"		Outlaw Bikers		Ax Men "Black Friday"		NCIS "Light Sleeper"		Crime Stories
		625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	S. Silverman	Flt.-Conchords	Daily Show
		600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Pure Design	Style	Sarah's House	Design Inc.	Colin & Justin's Home Heist		Holmes-Homes
		294	529	47	TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	*The Mighty Ducks* ★★ (1992, Comedy) Emilio Estevez.				Cheers	Seinfeld	Family Guy
		576	582	49	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		*House Party 2* ★★ (1991, Musical Comedy) Kid 'N Play.				Keyshia Cole	Brother	Judge Hatchett
		627	528	50	SPC	Lost		Star Trek: Next Gener.		The Dresden Files		Zombiemania		Stargate SG-1
		581	566	52	MTV	Next	After	MTV News	Cribs	A Double Shot of Love		A Double Shot of Love (N)		MTV Live
		618	524	54	TROP	Beverly Hills, 90210		Planet Soap	What Happen?	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	King	Family Guy
		603	561	56	FOOD	The Main	Chef at Home	Restaurant Makeover		The F Word		Chef School	At the Table	Restaurant
		261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		Bless-Father	On the Buses	*The Man Who Saved Christmas* (2002, Docudrama)				Origins-C'mas
		621	527	63	STR	The Ellen DeGeneres Show		TMZ (N)	Sarah	Look-A-Like	Off the Leash	The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		TMZ
		553	546	65	TRE	Santa-Town	Nght Grdn	Red-Nosed Reindeer		Backyardigans	Maggie-Beast	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie Olie	Beren. Bears
		115	711	101	TVA	*Devine qui* ★★ (2005, Comédie) Bernie Mac, Zoe Saldana.				Musicographie René Angelil.		TVA 22 heures	*Un Père Noël au grand coeur*	
		126	730	102	RDI	RDI en direct	Chine	Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal
		526	507	249	VIVA	Judging Amy		Commander In Chief		The West Wing		Encounters	In Dreams	Psychic Inv.
		300	601	301	M1	(7:15) *Shrek the Third* ★★ (2007, Comedy)				*Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* (2007)				*Ghost Rider*
		305	612	306	PIX	*Lucky Numbers* ★ (2000, Comedy) John Travolta.				*Airplane!* ★★★ (1980, Comedy)			*Airplane II: The Sequel*	

critics' corner

Miracle on 34th Street
Even if your heart belongs to the 1947 original with Edmund Gwenn, Maureen O'Hara and Natalie Wood, this 1994 remake of the holiday classic isn't half bad. Richard Attenborough plays the store Santa who believes with all his heart that he's the real deal, with Elizabeth Perkins and Mara Wilson as the cynical mother and daughter he has to convince. 8 PM on CBC

Stolen Miracle
Leslie Hope has a pivotal role in this shocking fact-based 2001 drama about a mother whose newborn baby is stolen from the maternity ward of an Ontario hospital. She plays the police sergeant who investigates after a baby snatcher enters a hospital in disguise. 5 PM on W; 8 PM on CTV

House
Rock climbing requires fast reflexes, and when a woman suddenly can't move her hands, her daughter almost pays the price. House tries to figure out what is causing the paralysis in "It's a Wonderful Lie." 8 PM on GTV, FOX

Twilight's Taylor to be replaced in sequel?
Rumours have been running rampant that Twilight star Taylor Lautner, who played Jacob Black, will be replaced in the sequel, New Moon, tvguide.com reports. IMDB.COM

Celebrity Buzz

Amy's topless holiday splashed on tabs

PEOPLE Amy Winehouse, who's had an ongoing battle with drugs and erratic behavior since she shot to fame in 2007, is making a splash across the British tabloids thanks to her revealing holiday, where she was photographed on the beach and on her balcony sans top, popeater.com reports.

Still, despite the fact that the tabs are swarming over the nudity, they're generous with the compliments when it comes to Winehouse's appearance.

The Daily Mail says Winehouse "looks the picture of health as she piles on the pounds" in the new photos, in which it's obvious she's put some pounds on her once-frail frame. A Mail source says that Winehouse "has hired a personal trainer," and that she's "very enthusiastic about her sessions and bounds in to work out on the bikes, weights and Power Plate."

The Sun was a bit less congratulatory, running video of and describing a topless dance that Winehouse did on the balcony of her St. Lucia hotel room. They describe it as a "bizarre balcony boogie," saying Winehouse "was caught on video as she lurched from one side to another, waving her arms."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Sam hospitalized for depression?

PEOPLE Samantha Ronson is reportedly suffering from depression, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

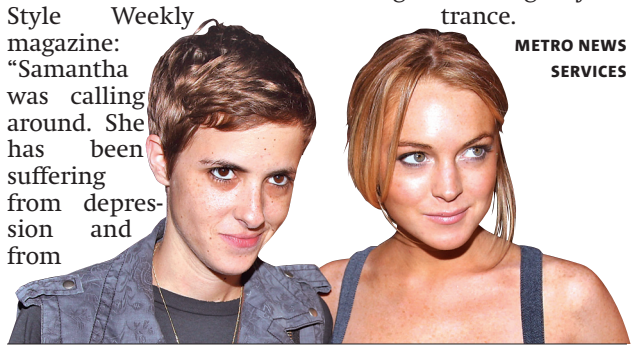
The 31-year-old DJ was accompanied by girlfriend Lindsay Lohan as she visited Los Angeles' Cedars-Sinai Medical Centre on Sunday — less than a day after it was reported she had been making frantic phone calls to friends complaining of stress and exhaustion.

A source told Life and Style Weekly magazine: "Samantha was calling around. She has been suffering from depression and from lack of food and sleep. Lindsay has been helping her through this as she has been through it herself two years ago."

Doctors were reportedly called to Samantha's home shortly before she visited the medical facility.

Despite her trip to Cedars-Sinai being described as "relatively minor," witnesses say Samantha was taken into the hospital in a wheelchair through the emergency entrance.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Sandler dresses up as a princess for storytime

PEOPLE Adam Sandler dresses up as a princess to read his daughters stories, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The Bedtime Stories actor and comedian likes to get into character when he regales tales to daughters Sadie, two, and newborn Sunny, who is a month old.

Adam, 42, said: "I like to dress up as the lead character in whatever story I am reading. This is a little weird because my daughter loves the Disney princesses. But you'd be surprised at how good I look in a ball gown.

"I hold the storybook and make up my own stories with the characters. This backfired when my daughter started watching movies and realized that Cinderella didn't drive for NASCAR."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Nick Cannon's ex speaks out about Mariah marriage

RELATIONSHIP Mariah Carey and Nick Cannon's secret wedding in the Bahamas may have surprised fans, but it also caught someone else off guard — one of Cannon's ex-girlfriends, people.com reports.

"I definitely was shocked like everybody else," Christina Milian, who dated her Love Don't Cost a Thing co-star in 2005, tells Rap-Up magazine.

"I was like, 'Really?' It just seemed like a weird match," says the singer and actress. "But I was happy for him. I always feel like Nick works hard to get what he wants, whether that be women — that's how he got me."

Milian, 27, says she and Cannon "were so young" when they were together. She hasn't spoken to Cannon since he started dating Carey.

Looking back on their relationship, Milian says she has no ill feelings or regrets.

"He's a beautiful person," she says. "Regardless of what I felt in the past at the time, I actually forgive him and I'm very much over that."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Britney and Benji rumours false

DATING As one might have guessed, all those rumours linking Britney Spears and Benji Madden were completely false, popeater.com reports. The singers definitely aren't dating, Spears' rep told E! News. "The claims made by In Touch are completely false ... There is not an ounce of truth to any of it," she said.

Last week, In Touch magazine claimed Spears' father Jamie Spears and her manager Larry Rudolph set the two stars up on a few dates — creating an instant love connection. But have no fear. Spears isn't jumping back into the dating game with Paris Hilton's ex just yet, says her rep.

Since the release of her album Circus, Spears has been linked to several celebrities including Chace Crawford, Jesse Metcalfe and Michael Phelps. None of which panned out or have been confirmed.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Ritchie rebounds with heiress Khan

RELATIONSHIP Just as their divorce settlement was making news, Madonna's ex-husband, Guy Ritchie, appeared to be celebrating his freedom and the holidays with someone new — millionaire heiress Jemima Khan, people.com reports.

The two attended a London dinner party together earlier this month at the home of public relations honcho Matthew Freud and his wife, Elisabeth Murdoch, daughter of media mogul Rupert Murdoch, reports London's Telegraph.

Khan, 33, is the socialite daughter of Lady Annabel Goldsmith (for whom the London nightclub was named) and the late financier Sir James Goldsmith. In 1995, she married Pakistani cricket player, the now-retired Imran Khan, and they had two sons, now 12 and nine. The couple divorced in 2004, and she was later attached to actor Hugh Grant, though that relationship has ended, say British newspapers.

At that earlier dinner party at the Freuds' Notting Hill home, says the Telegraph, another of the guests was Trudie Styler, wife of Sting — and the matchmaker who had first introduced Ritchie and Madonna in 1999.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

'Boy' Beyoncé jogs incognito in park

PEOPLE Beyoncé Knowles likes dressing as a boy, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The singer dons male clothes so she can go running in New York incognito.

Beyoncé, 27, said: "I love being able to run in Central Park. Just me and my trainer. I dress up like a boy and then no one knows it's me. I just keep moving."

Beyoncé's latest hit If I Were a Boy details what she would like to do if she were able to swap gender for a day.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Matt details road trip adventures

PEOPLE Matthew McConaughey was rescued by an 82-year-old Mexican woman after his truck broke down, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The Fool's Gold star was travelling with close friend Gus on the 14-day road trip to Baja, Calif. when the pair's vehicle ground to a halt.

McConaughey said: "We broke down in the middle of the desert while on that trip, in a place where we hadn't seen nor heard another human for three days. I had to jog down a dirt road for a couple of hours in hope of finding a trace of anyone.

"Well, I finally did, and her name was Matty, an 82-year-old Mexican woman who loaned me her 1981 Isuzu truck with 263,000 miles on it. That truck got us to a place where we could get the gear to fix my truck and get back on the road."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Samsung Cleo™

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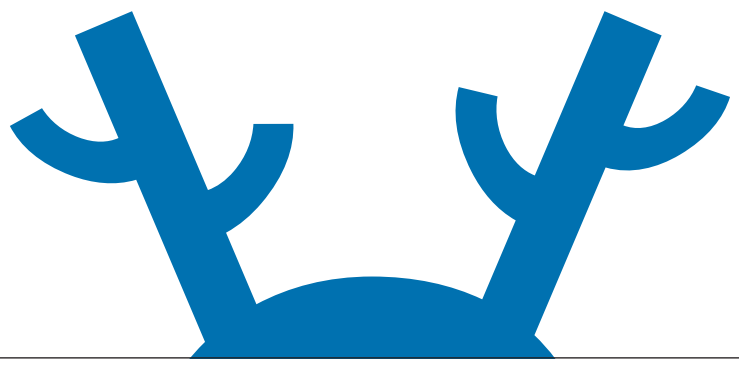
LG Rumour™

$0

on a 3-yr. term[1] ($249.95 no term)



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Offer ends December 24, 2008. Available with compatible devices within Bell Mobility high speed mobile network coverage areas. Other monthly fees, i.e., e9-1-1 (75¢), system access (not a government fee) ($8.95), and one-time device activation ($35) apply. Long distance and roaming charges (including foreign taxes) may apply outside your local area. Upon early termination, price adjustment charges apply. Subject to change without notice; not combinable with other offers. Taxes extra. Other conditions apply. **(1)** With new activation on a 3-yr. contract on a monthly voice plan. **(2)** With new activation on a 3-yr. contract on a monthly voice plan. Rebate applies on accessories before taxes in-store, on the Web or on the account otherwise; allow 4 to 6 weeks. **(3)** With new activation on a monthly voice plan and a data feature with a total min. value of $45/mo. **(4)** With new activation on a monthly voice plan with a min. Fun 15 bundle. Rebate applies on device before taxes in-store, on the Web or on the account otherwise; allow 4 to 6 weeks. You must keep the Fun bundle for 12 months after activation, otherwise a one-time data service price adjustment of $99 will be charged on your account. BlackBerry®, RIM®, Research In Motion®, SureType®, SurePress™ and related trademarks, names and logos are the property of Research In Motion Limited and are registered and/or used in the U.S. and countries around the world. Samsung Instinct and Samsung Cleo are trademarks of Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd., and its related entities. Rumour is a trademark of LG Electronics Inc.

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  - 632 Yonge St.
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  - Georgian Mall
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- BOWMANVILLE
  - Clarington Place
- BRAMPTON
  - 59 First Gulf Blvd
  - 100 Great Lakes Dr.
  - 10086 Hurontario St.
  - Airport & Hwy 7
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- BURLINGTON
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  - Appleby Crossing
  - Burlington Mall
  - Mapleview Mall
- CAMBRIDGE
  - 499 Hespeler Rd.
  - Cambridge Center
- COBOURG
  - Northumberland Mall
- COOKSTOWN
  - Cookstown Outlet Mall (kiosk)
- DON MILLS
  - Two Park Centre
- ETOBICOKE
  - Cloverdale Mall
  - Sherway Gardens
  - Woodbine Centre
- GEORGETOWN
  - 330 Guelph St.
- LINDSAY
  - 229 Kent St.
  - Whitney Town Centre
- MAPLE
  - 2810 Major Mackenzie Dr.
- MARKHAM
  - 7357 Woodbine Ave.
  - 8392 Kennedy Rd.
  - Cachet Village
  - Market Village
  - Markville Shopping Centre
  - Pacific Mall
- MILTON
  - 377 Main St E
- MISSISSAUGA
  - 980 Eglinton Ave. E
  - 2800 Skymark Ave.
  - 6965 Davand Dr.
  - Central Parkway Mall
  - Dixie Value Mall
  - Erin Mills Town Centre
  - Heartland Power Centre
  - Mississauga Chinese Centre
  - Sheridan Centre
  - Square One Shopping Centre
  - Westgate SmartCentres
  - Westwood Mall
- NEWMARKET
  - Upper Canada Mall
- NORTH YORK
  - 170 Rimrock Rd
  - 1635 Lawrence Ave.W.
  - 2081 Steeles Ave. W
  - Bayview Village
  - Crossroads Plaza
  - Empress Walk
  - Lawrence Square
  - North York Sheridan Mall
  - Sheppard Centre
  - Yorkgate Mall
- OAKVILLE
  - Hopedale Mall (kiosk)
  - Oakville Place
  - Winston Power Centre
- ORANGEVILLE
  - 114 Broadway Ave.
- OSHAWA
  - Five Points Mall
  - Oshawa Centre
- PICKERING
  - 570 Kingston Rd
  - Pickering Town Centre
- RICHMOND HILL
  - Elgin Mills Crossing
  - Hillcrest Mall
  - Richmond Heights Plaza
  - Time Square Shopping Centre
- SCARBOROUGH
  - 259 Morningside Ave.
  - Bridlewood Mall (Kiosk)
  - Cedarbrae Mall (kiosk)
  - Chartwell Shopping Center
  - Eglinton Square
  - Kennedy Commons
  - Malvern Town Centre
  - Parkway Mall
  - Scarborough Town Centre
- SUDBURY
  - Brady Square
  - New Sudbury Centre
  - Southridge Mall
- THORNHILL
  - 2900 Steeles Ave.
  - Promenade Mall
- TORONTO
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  - 209 Danforth Ave.
  - 2171 Queen St. E
  - 2256 Bloor St.W
  - 2323 Yonge St.
  - Brookfield Place
  - Chinatown Centre
  - College Park
  - Commerce Court
  - Cumberland Terrace
  - Dufferin Mall
  - East York Town Centre
  - Eaton Centre
  - Eaton Centre II
  - Exchange Tower
  - Gerrard Square
  - Scotia Plaza
  - Toronto Life Square
  - Yorkdale (kiosk)
- UNIONVILLE
  - 190 main St
- UXBRIDGE
  - 307 Toronto St S
- VAUGHAN
  - Vaughan Mills
- WHITBY
  - Whitby Mall
  - Whitby SmartCentres
- WILLOWDALE
  - Fairview Mall
- WOODBRIDGE
  - 4080 Highway 7

The Weather Network
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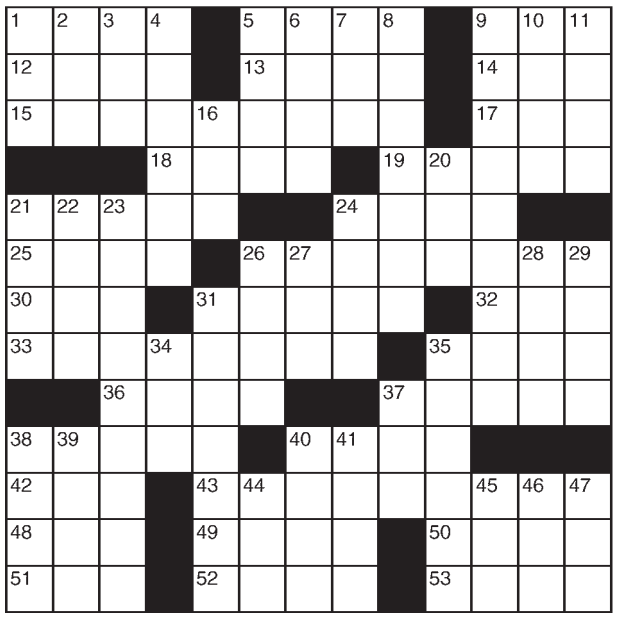
Today 80% Light snow -3° / -4°
Wednesday 80% Rain 3° / -6°
Thursday Mainly sunny -1° / -7°
WeatherEye... Free App Available on iPhone.

Take Five

For more delicious Metro recipes, visit: **metronews.ca/food**



Crossword across

1 Prompted on stage
5 "— the night before Christmas"
9 Perch
12 Geometry find
13 Colonial Nathan
14 Commotion
15 Yankee pattern
17 Not a lot
18 Drag behind
19 Song of praise
21 Recorded
24 Right on the map?
25 Oklahoma city
26 Times past, to Burns
30 Raggedy doll
31 Get the answer
32 — XING (street sign)
33 Nobody else's business?
35 Swallow, e.g.
36 "Once — a time"
37 Available
38 Beat
40 "So be it"
42 Sphere
43 Part of a gun
48 Time of your life?
49 One of HOMES
50 Tardy
51 "Le Coq —"
52 Campus VIP
53 Otherwise

Crossword down

1 Upper limit
2 Swiss canton
3 Still, in verse
4 Destroyed, as in hopes
5 By way of, briefly
6 Banshee's cry
7 Matterhorn, for one
8 Amount of ooze
9 Diaper fastener
10 Concept
11 Burg
16 Young Mr. Lincoln
20 Donkey
21 Squad
22 Domini preceder
23 ATM ID
24 Green-eyed monster
26 Crazy one
27 Every crumb
28 Dweeb
29 Vortex
31 Parodied
34 Antonym (Abbr.)
35 Bracelet type
37 Coop occupant
38 Frog's cousin
39 Therefore
40 Operatic solo
41 Carriage
44 Anger
45 Crony
46 "Monty Python" opener
47 Born

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	1	6		4				7
	8					6		
3		9		8	6			
		2	7			4		
			5		4			
		3			2	9		
			3	6		2		8
		1					3	
6				2		5	9	

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

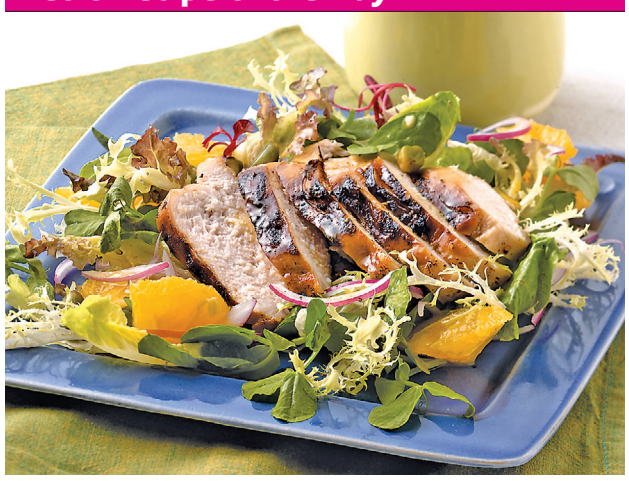
M	O	A	T	■	A	I	D	■	R	E	A	M
I	N	V	E	I	G	L	E	■	E	T	N	A
S	E	A	T	B	E	L	T	■	N	U	T	S
■	■	■	H	I	S	■	O	B	O	I	S	T
A	C	H	E	S	■	A	N	E	W	■	■	■
P	A	I	R	■	N	E	A	T	N	I	K	■
E	L	D	■	E	A	R	T	H	■	T	A	B
■	M	E	A	T	P	I	E	■	D	E	L	I
■	■	■	R	O	H	E	■	A	R	M	E	D
E	X	T	A	N	T	■	D	N	A	■	■	■
A	R	A	B	■	H	E	A	T	W	A	V	E
C	A	R	L	■	A	N	T	I	L	L	E	S
H	Y	P	E	■	S	E	A	■	S	E	T	S

9	3	5	4	2	6	8	1	7
4	7	8	3	5	1	6	2	9
6	2	1	9	8	7	3	4	5
7	5	2	1	3	4	9	6	8
8	4	3	6	9	2	5	7	1
1	6	9	5	7	8	4	3	2
3	9	7	2	4	5	1	8	6
2	1	4	8	6	9	7	5	3
5	8	6	7	1	3	2	9	4

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min .....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day



Grilled Chicken Salad with Oranges

INGREDIENTS:

1/3 cup (75 mL) orange juice
2 tbsp (25 mL) lemon juice
3 tbsp (45 mL) extra-virgin olive oil
1 tbsp (15 mL) Dijon mustard
2 garlic cloves, minced
Salt to taste
Freshly ground pepper to taste
1 lb (450 grams) boneless skinless chicken breasts, trimmed
1/4 cup (50 mL) pistachios, or slivered almonds toasted
8 cups (2 L) or 5 oz (140 grams) mesclun salad mix
1/2 cup (125 mL) thinly sliced red onion
2 medium oranges, peeled, quartered, and sliced

METHOD:

1. Place orange juice, lemon juice, oil, mustard, garlic, salt and pepper in a jar with a tight-fitting lid; shake to blend. Reserve 1/3 cup (75 mL) for salad and 3 tbsp (45 mL) for basting.
2. Place remaining dressing in a shallow glass dish. Add chicken and turn to coat. Cover and marinate in refrigerator for at least 20 minutes.
3. Preheat grill to medium. Lightly oil grill rack. Remove chicken from marinade and discard marinade. Grill chicken 4 to 6 inches (10 to 15 cm) from heat source, basting cooked sides with dressing reserved for basting, until no longer pink in centre, 4 to 6 minutes per side. Transfer to cutting board and let stand 5 minutes.
4. Meanwhile, toast almonds or pistachios in small dry skillet over medium-low heat, stirring constantly, until light golden, 2 to 3 minutes. Transfer to bowl and let cool.
5. Place salad mix and onion in large bowl. Toss with dressing reserved for salad. Divide salad among 4 plates. Slice chicken and distribute. Scatter orange slices over top and sprinkle with pistachios or almonds.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Sincere gestures will make the difference in love. Time will seem to slither by. Being on the highway of love makes you dizzy.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Give something one more try. Retrace your steps to find a lost object. Do more than expected in order to be rewarded

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Don't pry into anyone's secrets. An investment strategy seems like a joke. A nervous person confesses their true intentions.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
A man feels like a fool for love. Someone's fickleness is creepy. There's no consolation prize if a full effort isn't given.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
A pleased person makes an incredible offer. Don't throw in the towel when friendship hits a snag. Hold off making electronics purchases.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Don't wonder how things might have worked out. Watching a paranoid person causes problems. Facts will make you come to your senses.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Old friends are stunned by a revelation. Open all packages with care. A dental problem subsides for a while.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
Somebody will remember to get in touch. A bully will take his lumps. Don't make life changes right now.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
Your enthusiasm grows due to unexpected success. Count on a mating game moving fast. Help somebody make contact with reality.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
Hypocrisy will be exposed by an accident. Don't mistake friendliness for love. The time has come for closure with the past.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
An accounting error works in your favour. A wise woman tells the truth. A good friend brings something special.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Waiting for something to happen will irritate you. Don't pretend to be an expert if you aren't. Embarrassment will limit public activity.

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NEW "COMMENT & VIEWS"
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WORDY GURDY®

BY TRICKY RICKY KANE

1. Is without Bill Clinton's instrument (1)
2. Birdbrain's future stallions (1)
3. Wash out the color from a sandy spot (1)
4. Hugely tall NBA star Kobe (2)
5. "Laugh-In" comic Johnson's bashes (2)
6. One with faith in a mote-removing maid (2)
7. Stick-up stuck-up-ed-ness (3)

Every answer is a rhyming pair of words (like FAT CAT and DOUBLE TROUBLE), and they will fit in the letter squares. The number after the definition tells you how many syllables in each word.

ANSWERS
1. LACKS SAX 2. DOLTS COLTS 3. BLEACH BEACH 4. GIANT BRYANT
5. ARTES PARTIES 6. DUSTER TRUSTER 7. ROBBERY SNOBBERY

12-23-08

This day in history

DEC. 23, 1893: The opera Hänsel und Gretel by Engelbert Humperdinck was first performed.
DEC. 23, 1954: The first human kidney transplant is performed by Dr. Joseph E. Murray at Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts.
DEC. 23, 1979: In the Soviet war in Afghanistan, Soviet forces occupy Kabul, the Afghan capital.
DEC. 23, 2005: Chad declares a state of war against Sudan following a December 18 attack on Adré, which left about 100 people dead.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Devonshire Mall
Dixie Outlet Mall
Dufferin Mall
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Fairview Park Mall
Georgian Mall
Lime Ridge Mall
Masonville Place
Oshawa Centre
Pen Centre
Pickering Town Centre
Scarborough Town Centre
Sherway Gardens
Square One
Stone Road Mall
Tecumseh Mall
Toronto Eaton Centre
Upper Canada Mall
Vaughan Mills
Yorkdale Mall

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